

FRUIT FLY APPLE CIDER VINEGAR-DISH SOAP TRAP



Healthy compost bins shouldn't be swarming with flies, but sometimes fruit flies get overly excited when we've recently added overripe fruit. This fruit fly trap uses apple cider vinegar and dish soap to catch these pesky flies.

WHY USE APPLE CIDER VINEGAR?

Apple cider vinegar has a strong, sweet odor that leads the fruit flies into the trap. They think the vinegar is overly ripe fruit!

FRUIT FLIES ARE ATTRACTED TO THE CARBON DIOXIDE EMITTED DURING THE FERMENTATION PROCESS FROM ANY TYPE OF ORGANIC MATERIAL, BUT THEY LOOOOOVE OVERLY RIPE FRUIT!

WHAT DOES THE DISH SOAP DO?

Soap molecules are made of long chains of carbon and hydrogen atoms. These molecules lower the surface tension of the vinegar. When a fruit fly touches the surface, it immediately sinks into the vinegar and drowns. It's chemistry in action!

FRUIT FLY FUN FACTS

- The fruit fly is a species of common housefly.
- It's scientific name is *Drosophila melanogaster*
- A fruit fly's lifespan is 40-50 days, but a single female fruit fly can lay up to 500 eggs!
- Fruit flies, like other insects, have a four-stage reproductive cycle: egg-larvae-pupae-adult. It takes about 1-2 weeks to complete the metamorphosis.

FAQ

FRUIT FLIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR SCIENTISTS PERFORMING GENETIC RESEARCH, SINCE FRUIT FLIES AND HUMANS SHARE 75% OF GENES WHICH CAUSE DISEASE!

TRY IT AT HOME!

if you have a compost pail in your kitchen, you might occasionally have fruit flies, too! If you don't, just try leaving out a banana peel for a few days and you'll likely hatch your own. Then make your own trap, and watch it work!

1

ADD APPLE CIDER VINEGAR TO A SMALL JAR OR BOWL SO THAT IT IS AT LEAST 1" DEEP



2

ADD 2-3 PUMPS (ABOUT 1 TBLSP) OF DISH SOAP TO YOUR BOWL.



3

COVER YOUR BOWL WITH PLASTIC WRAP AND POKE 4-5 HOLES WITH A TOOTHPICK. SET THE BOWL NEAR THE FRUIT FLIES.

