

Safe Netting for Wildlife

**Is fruit netting absolutely necessary?
How much produce is harvested?
How much is wasted?**

Consider sharing and enjoying the visiting wildlife to your garden.

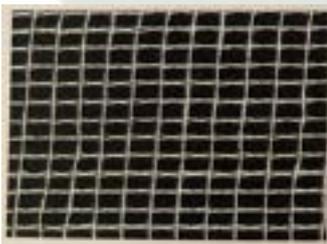
Flying foxes and native birds are particularly prone to entanglement in netting. They can become so entangled that they can no longer fly and have to be euthanased. The grey-headed flying-fox is protected under the Commonwealth Environment & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Flying foxes and native birds are also protected in the ACT under the Nature Conservation Strategy 2014. ACT abides by the Animal Welfare Act of 1992.

Flying foxes and native birds are a keystone species in the Australian environment they play an important role in keeping our ecosystem healthy. They pollinate flowers and disperse seeds as they forage on nectar and pollen of eucalypts, melaleucas & banksias and the fruits of forest trees and vines.

Before you put up any netting follow these guidelines:

- Don't put netting on until the fruit has been fertilised.
- Before covering the trees make sure there are no holes in the nets stored from last year.
- Some examples of preferred fruit tree netting with an aperture 5mmx5mm / 70GSM fully stretched as in the photos below.
- Netting needs to be tied tightly around the trunk or over a frame and if nets are sewn together make sure there are no gaps.
- Gaps must be smaller than being able to put your finger through.

Three good nets which pass the 'finger test':



Fruitsaver

2 sizes for small or medium trees



Hail Guard

Off 6m roll



Veg net

2 sizes, 6m x 10m and 6m x 20m



These two examples show how to correctly place netting over trees so wildlife cannot enter.



This example show **BAD** netting, the gaps are too large and a finger can pass through.

WARNING:

Do not attempt to cut wildlife from the netting, call ACT Wildlife on **0432 300 033**. Our volunteers are vaccinated and trained in rescuing flying-foxes, birds and snakes. If someone is bitten or scratched by a flying-fox, thoroughly wash the site and contact your doctor immediately.