



## Wildlife-safe Netting

### General information

Many native animals feed on flowering and fruiting trees in our backyards, leading some people to protect their fruit by covering their trees with loose netting. They often don't realise that this type of netting can be deadly to native wildlife including flying-foxes (also known as fruit-bats), birds, possums and small reptiles.



A flying-fox caught in netting

### Choosing the right netting

- If you can poke your finger through the holes in the net, then it is a hazard to many species of wildlife.
- You can protect individual fruit as it grows with 'fruit protection bags' and leave some fruit at the top of the tree for the critters.
- A shadecloth, or netting brands such as Fruitsaver, Hailguard and Vegenet work well and should be pulled and secured tightly around the tree. Avoid letting loose or open gathers of material hang down as wildlife can still enter this way and become entangled inside the net.
- As a best practice guide, the mesh diameter should be less than **2mm** so that you can't poke your finger through.
- Netting white in colour makes it easier for nocturnal animals to see the net and to avoid it at night.



Wildlife-friendly netting

We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our Emergency Response Service for advice on **(03) 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: [wildlifestvictoria.org.au](http://wildlifestvictoria.org.au)