

BIG FRUIT FLIES

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In the last year or so, a new fruit fly has come on the aquarium scene. It is about three or four times the size of our old familiar fruit fly and seems to produce more flies per culture.

The newcomer is a species of *Drosophila*, but it is not *Drosophila melanogaster*. It has wings, but it doesn't fly. Should we call it a fruit walk? This new *Drosophila* is cultured in the same way as the old one, as follows.

In each nine-ounce plastic drinking cup, put about three rounded tablespoons of Betty Crocker Potato Buds. In a separate nine-ounce glass, mix about one tablespoon of Grandma's Molasses with about five times that much water. Swirl it around until the molasses goes into solution, then add enough water to fill this cup full.

Add as much of the molasses solution to each container of dried potatoes as they will absorb in a minute or so. If there is any excess water on top of the mashed potatoes, pour it off, or the flies will walk into it and drown.

Sprinkle some Fleischmann's Dry Active yeast on top of the potatoes.

Add about a half-dozen flies to each container and cover the top of the cup with a piece of porous paper towel, and crease the paper towel where it crosses the edge of the cup. This action will keep the flies from being trapped and dying by climbing into puckers in the paper towel, where they become isolated from the moisture.

Place the cultures somewhere away from bright light, and in a few weeks you'll have lots of flies to feed your fish.

These flies are great for feeding the larger killifish and other surface-feeding fish. Some fish don't seem to understand fruit flies the first time they see them, but the second time, they will really tear into them. Feed only a few flies the first time and don't give up if your fish don't know how to capture flies by pulling them through the surface the first time. Just try again the next day and you'll see an amazing improvement.

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