

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2005-26
August 5, 2005

SUBJECT: APHIS Lifts Restrictions on Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) Host Material from Mexico

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Based on the conclusion of three life cycles of negative trapping within the regulated area for Medfly in the municipality of Tijuana, Mexico, effective immediately APHIS is removing the remaining restrictions on Medfly host material moving from Tijuana, Mexico.

On September 16, 2004, ten adult Medfly males were found in the Municipality of Tijuana, México, by APHIS' officials. APHIS immediately responded to the outbreak by halting imports of all Medfly host material from Tijuana and temporarily modified the entry requirements for all Medfly host material entering the United States from Mexico.

On October 15, 2004, a Technical Assessment Team met in Tijuana, Mexico, to review the progress made in eradicating the Medfly outbreak and it was determined that satisfactory progress was being made.

On November 9, 2004, APHIS eliminated some of the phytosanitary measures implemented to restrict the movement of Medfly host material from Tijuana into the United States. Specifically, the requirements to cut fruit and seal shipments of host material moving through United States' ports east of the San Luis, Arizona, checkpoint were removed. On March 8, 2005, APHIS eliminated the phytosanitary certification requirements for Medfly host material moving through the following United States' ports of entry: San Luis, Arizona and Calexico and Tecate, California.

On July 16, 2005, following the completion of three life cycles of trapping, APHIS confirmed that no more wild flies were detected. Therefore, APHIS will notify Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación that effective immediately we are lifting the remaining restrictions on Medfly host material moving from Tijuana, Mexico.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

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