

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2011-17
April 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, *Ceratitis capitata* – Expansion of Quarantine Area in the Pompano Beach Area of Broward County, Florida

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective March 28, 2011, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) expanded the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) quarantine area in the Pompano Beach area of Broward County, Florida, due to additional fruit fly detections. APHIS is applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantine area to prevent the spread of Medflies to non-infested areas of the United States. This outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under eradication.

On January 31, 2011, two adult male Medflies were detected on a single residential property in the Pompano Beach area of Broward County, Florida. Subsequently on February 25, APHIS established a quarantine area surrounding the detection site. Then on March 21, one adult mated female Medfly was also detected on a residential property within the quarantine area and, on March 24, one adult male Medfly was detected on a property near the March 21 detection site. These findings triggered the expansion of the quarantine area by 15-square miles, for a total of approximately 63-square miles in Broward County.

In response to these detections, APHIS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) are deploying fruit fly traps surrounding all Medfly detection sites at protocol levels to delimit the area. In addition, FDACS is applying Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments to all host trees surrounding the detection site at 7-10 day intervals in conjunction with the removal of any existing fruit. As a treatment to control Medfly populations within the quarantine area, APHIS is conducting sterile insect technique (SIT) around all detection sites. SIT is an eradication tool, which consists of the massive aerial and ground release of sterile male Medflies into the detected wild population in order to reduce reproduction. Sterile male Medflies are released at a rate of 250,000 to 500,000 per-square-mile each week.

APHIS anticipates following this action with the publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* informing the public of this change. Please visit the APHIS website at www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fruit_flies for a description and map of the Medfly quarantine area in Florida as well as information on all current Federal fruit fly quarantine areas. If you have any questions, please contact APHIS' Exotic Fruit Fly Director, Wayne Burnett, at (301) 734-6553.

/s/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine