

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-23
June 3, 2009

SUBJECT: *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean Fruit Fly) – Establishment of a Second Quarantine Area in San Diego County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On June 3, 2009, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established a Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) quarantine area, after confirming the finding of a Medfly population, in the Mira Mesa community of San Diego in San Diego County, California. APHIS is applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantine area. These actions are necessary to prevent the spread of Medfly to noninfested areas of the United States. This Medfly outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under eradication.

From May 20, 2009 through May 31, 2009, three adult female and one adult male Medflies, and, 14 Medfly larvae were detected on three different residential sites in the Mira Mesa community of San Diego, California. APHIS, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the San Diego County Department of Agriculture, is responding to this confirmed finding of a Medfly population. The following detection triggered the establishment of this quarantine area. The quarantine area boundary encompasses approximately 106 square miles of San Diego County, California. There is no commercial production of host commodities in the quarantine area. This new Medfly quarantine area is northwest and distinct of the current Medfly quarantine area in San Diego County.

Fruit fly traps have been deployed at protocol levels to conduct a delimitation survey surrounding the detection site. Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments are being applied to all host trees within 200 meters of the detection site at 7 to 10 day intervals. The population control treatment, known as Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), is being conducted in a 13.31 square mile area surrounding the detection sites. SIT is an eradication tool, which consists of the aerial release of sterile male Medflies to inundate the detected wild population to reduce reproduction. Sterile male Medflies are released at rate of 250,000 per square mile per week. The weekly release of Sterile Medflies will continue through two projected Medfly life cycles in the San Diego area from the last detection date.

This action is effective immediately. This establishment of this quarantine area will be reflected on the following designated website, which contains a description of all the current Federal fruit fly quarantine areas:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/fruit_flies/index.shtml

APHIS anticipates following this action with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register informing the public of this change. For additional information on this Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication program, you may contact Wayne Burnett, APHIS Exotic Fruit Fly Director, at Area Code (301) 734-6553.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

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