

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2009-37
July 31, 2009

SUBJECT: Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata*, Reduction of Quarantined Area in San Diego County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) has reduced the quarantine area for Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in San Diego County, California, effective July 28, 2009.

On November 26, 2008, APHIS designated portions of the El Cajon area of San Diego County as a fruit fly quarantine area for Medfly and applied restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from that area to prevent the spread of Medfly to non-infested areas of the United States. Subsequent to its establishment, the quarantine area was expanded twice, first on December 22, 2008, and then again on February 19, 2009, to include greater portions of San Diego County. Since that time, APHIS has worked cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner to eradicate the transient Medfly population from part of the quarantine area through various population control actions, including the application of sterile insect technique by inundating the area surrounding the detection sites with millions of sterile male Medflies and the application of foliar spinosad bait sprays near the detection sites.

A reduction of the quarantine area from 198-square miles to 93-square miles was warranted after sufficient time passed without finding additional Medfly in the specified area. Specifically, an intensified fruit fly trap surveillance system was deployed and monitored for three life cycles, calculated through a modeling process specific for Medfly. Accordingly, the Medfly quarantine was lifted from portions of the quarantine area in San Diego County on July 28, 2009. This change to the quarantine area is 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 the reduction of the Medfly quarantine, you may contact Wayne Burnett, APHIS Exotic Fruit Fly Director, Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Programs at (301) 734-4387.

/s/ **Sherry A. Sanderson**

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