

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2010-03
January 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, *Ceratitis capitata* – Expansion of the Quarantine in the Escondido Area of San Diego County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has expanded the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) quarantine area in the Escondido area of San Diego County, California, following further detection of a Medfly population in that area. 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.

On September 9, 2009, one adult mated female Medfly was detected on a residential property in the Escondido area of San Diego, California. On September 30, 2009, APHIS established a quarantine area surrounding this detection site. From October 19, 2009, through October 25, 2009, two adult males and one mated adult female Medflies were detected within the quarantine area on three additional residential properties. On November 19, 2009, APHIS expanded the quarantine to include the areas surrounding these sites. From December 3, 2009, through December 15, 2009, two adult males, one adult female and 36 larvae were detected within the quarantine areas on three new residential properties. APHIS, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the San Diego County Department of Agriculture, is responding to these confirmed Medfly findings. These confirmed findings have triggered the expansion of the quarantine area by 34 miles to approximately 148-square miles of San Diego County.

Fruit fly traps have been deployed at protocol levels to conduct a delimitation survey surrounding the new Medfly detection sites. Medfly populations within the new quarantine area are being controlled with the application of Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments within 200 meters of each detection site and through the use of Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) in a 43.95-square-mile area surrounding all detection sites within the entire quarantine area. SIT consists of the release of sterile Medflies in an attempt to reduce reproductive success of wild Medflies. The weekly release of sterile Medflies will continue in the San Diego area through two projected Medfly lifecycles.

The establishment of this quarantine area became effective on December 22, 2009. Further information can be found at the following 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 will publish a notice in the Federal Register informing the public of this change. For additional information on the Medfly Eradication Program, please contact Wayne Burnett, APHIS Exotic Fruit Fly Director, at (301) 734-6553.

/s/ John H. Payne for

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