

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2011-20
April 8, 2011

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

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective April 05, 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 an additional fruit fly detection. APHIS is applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantine area to prevent the spread of Medflies to noninfested 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. The site was expanded on March 28, 2011, due to additional adult Medfly detections. On March 26, one adult unmated female Medfly was detected on a residential property within the quarantine area. This new finding triggered a second expansion of the area by 8-square miles encompassing approximately 71-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 infestation. 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. Or, you may contact APHIS' Exotic Fruit Fly Director, Wayne Burnett, at (301) 734-6553.

/s/ Rebecca A. BECH

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