

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2010-40
September 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Melon Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*) – Expansion of Quarantine Area in the Arvin area of Kern County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective September 8, 2010, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) expanded the melon fruit fly quarantine area in the Arvin area of Kern County, California, due to additional detections in that area. APHIS is applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantine area to prevent the spread of melon fruit flies to noninfested areas of the United States. This melon fruit fly outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under eradication.

Between August 9 and August 11, 2010, 3 unmated adult female melon fruit flies and 3 adult male melon fruit flies were detected on 2 adjacent rural residential properties in the Arvin area of Kern, California. On August 19, 2010, APHIS established a quarantine area surrounding these detection sites. On August 28, 2010, two adult male melon fruit flies were also detected within the quarantine area in a commercial grape vineyard. APHIS, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Kern County Department of Agriculture, is responding to these detections. In addition, these confirmed findings have triggered the expansion of the quarantine area by 8-square miles to approximately 90-square miles of Kern County.

Fruit fly traps have been deployed at protocol levels to conduct a delimitation survey surrounding the new melon fruit fly detection site. The main control method will be to place traps baited with a male attractant in order to remove the males from the population and inhibit the reproduction cycle. Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments are also being applied to all host trees within 200 meters of the two detection sites and any host commodities remaining on the two detection sites are being removed and destroyed.

This action became effective on September 8, 2010. The establishment of this quarantine area will be reflected on the APHIS website. To view the current list of Federal fruit fly quarantine areas, please copy and paste the following link into your Web browser:

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

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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 melon fruit fly eradication program, you may contact Wayne Burnett, APHIS Exotic Fruit Fly Director, at (301) 734-6553.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

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