

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2019-06

May 13, 2019

Subject: APHIS Establishes a Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) Quarantine in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

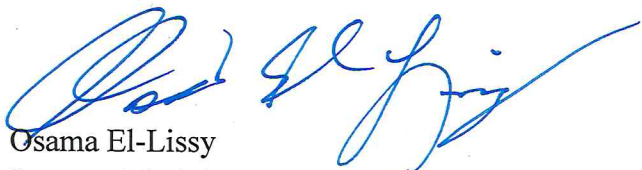
Effective April 26, 2019, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established a Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens* or Mexfly) quarantine in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas. APHIS is applying safeguarding measures and restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from this area.

On April 26, APHIS confirmed one mated female Mexfly in Brownsville, Texas, triggering the establishment of a quarantine for this pest. As of May 2, APHIS confirmed five additional Mexfly adults and two larvae inside the quarantine for a total of seven flies. APHIS, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), is responding to these confirmed detections with the establishment of a new quarantine area, which encompasses approximately 111 square miles of Brownsville, Cameron County. There are 182 acres of commercial citrus within the quarantine area. APHIS is working with TDA to respond to these detections following program survey and treatment protocols. This action is necessary to prevent the spread of Mexfly to non-infested areas of the United States.

The establishment of this quarantine area is described 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/ff-quarantine>

For additional information on the Mexfly quarantine area, please contact the Fruit Fly National Policy Manager, Richard Johnson, at 301-851-2109.



Osama El-Lissy

Deputy Administrator

Plant Protection and Quarantine