

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2008-16
April 7, 2008

SUBJECT: *Anastrepha ludens* (Mexican fruit fly) - Quarantined Area in Willacy County, Texas

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Further detections of Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly) in the Raymondville/Lasara area of Willacy County, Texas, are confirmed. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to further expand the designated Mexfly interstate quarantine area to include a greater portion of Willacy County. Portions of Willacy County were previously designated as a Mexfly quarantine area on March 27, 2008. These actions are necessary to prevent the spread of Mexfly to noninfested areas of the United States. This Mexfly outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under eradication.

From February 28 through April 3, 2008, four mated and two unmated female Mexflies, one male Mexfly and 19 Mexfly larvae were detected on six separate residential properties and one grapefruit grove in the Raymondville/Lasara area of Willacy County. These detections triggered the initiation and the subsequent expansion of this quarantine. The expanded quarantine boundary encompasses approximately 176 square-miles of Willacy County. There are approximately 120 total acres of commercial citrus in the quarantine area. All but 5 acres of commercial citrus in the quarantine area has been harvested. The 5 remaining acres of citrus will be harvested, safeguarded and sent to a local facility for juicing.

Fruit fly traps have been deployed at protocol levels to conduct a delimitation survey surrounding the detection sites. Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments are being applied to all host trees within 500 meters of the detection sites at 7 to 10 day intervals. The weekly release of sterile male Mexflies will be initiated surrounding the detection sites and continued through two projected Mexfly life cycles in the Raymondville/Lasara area of Texas.

The Federal Domestic Quarantine Order delineating the new expanded Mexfly quarantine area in Willacy County is attached and effective immediately. This quarantine area replaces the previous delineated quarantine area in Willacy County. APHIS anticipates following this action with the publication of an Interim Rule in the Federal Register, with public comment, in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

For additional information on this Mexfly quarantine, you may contact Wayne Burnett, Domestic Coordinator, Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Programs at Area Code (301) 734-4387.

/s/ Alan Green for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

FEDERAL ORDER

Domestic Quarantine in Raymondville/Lasara, Texas in Willacy County for Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*)

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.64.

Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly) has been found in Raymondville, Texas in Willacy County and therefore, the Administrator of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has reason to believe that the Mexfly is present in that area and thus it is necessary to quarantine an area in Willacy County in order to prevent the spread of Mexfly. Therefore, effective immediately, APHIS is temporarily designating the following area in Willacy County, Texas, as a quarantined area:

In the Raymondville/Lasara area of Willacy County:

The quarantined area is that portion of Willacy county, bounded by a line drawn as follows: Beginning at the intersection of FM 498 and FM 2845; then easterly along FM498 to its intersection with FM 2099; then continuing northerly along FM2099 to its intersection with FM490; then continuing easterly along FM490 to its intersection with latitude 26.45360 and longitude -97.69919; then continuing in a straight northerly imaginary line intersecting with road Cr3796; then westerly along Cr3796 to its intersection with Santa Margarita Rd; then continuing northerly along Santa Margarita to its intersection with Riggins Rd; then continuing westerly along Riggins Rd to its intersection with Cantu Rd; then straight northwesterly along an imaginary line intersecting with Latitude 26.57423 and Longitude -97.70461; then westerly along a straight imaginary line to its intersection with the Willacy County line; then continuing southerly along the Willacy County line to its intersection with FM490; then continuing easterly and southerly along the Willacy County line to its intersection with FM 1921; then continuing easterly along FM1921 to its intersection with FM 2845; then southerly along 2845 to the point of beginning.

7 CFR 301.64-3(a) allows the quarantine of less than an entire State only when the State enforces an intrastate quarantine that matches the Mexican Fruit Fly regulations.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established an intra-state quarantine for the delineated area under a Texas State interior quarantine that mirrors the Federal regulatory requirements for Mexican fruit fly.

7 CFR 301.64-3(b) provides for temporary designation of new quarantined areas pending publication of a rule to add affected areas to the list shown in 7CFR 301.64-3(c).

Effective immediately, persons seeking movement of regulated articles designated in 7 CFR 301.64-2 should refer to 7 CFR 301.64-4 for conditions governing the interstate movement of regulated articles from quarantine areas.

This action will be reflected in an Interim Rule that we anticipate will soon be published in the Federal Register for public comment in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.