

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2014-26
May 19, 2014

SUBJECT: APHIS Establishes Mexican Fruit Fly, *Anastrepha ludens*, Regulated Area in the Weslaco, Hidalgo County, and Lyford, Willacy County, Texas

TO: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

On January 16, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) established a Mexican fruit fly (Mexfly) regulated area in Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas. Additionally on January 23, APHIS and TDA established a regulated area in Lyford, Willacy County, Texas. APHIS immediately began applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from these areas, which encompass approximately 112 square miles in Weslaco and 209 square miles in Lyford. These actions are necessary to prevent the spread of mexfly to non-infested areas of the United States. This outbreak is considered transient, actionable, and under eradication.

Between January 9 and January 16, five adult mexflies were detected in residential areas of Weslaco, Texas. Also, on January 23, a mated female mexfly was confirmed in the Lyford area of Willacy County, Texas. Subsequently, additional mexflies were detected in the Weslaco area for a total of 14 adult mexflies and three larvae found at two sites on March 5 and April 17. Five additional adult mexflies were also captured in Lyford. APHIS, in cooperation with TDA, is responding to these confirmed Mexican fruit fly detections following established program survey, treatment, and quarantine protocols.

The establishment of these regulated areas is reflected on the following designated website, which contains a description of all the current federal fruit fly regulated areas:

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

For additional information on the Mexfly Eradication Program, you may call Plant Protection and Quarantine's National Fruit Fly Manager John Stewart at 919-855-7426.

/s/

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