

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2016-10

**JAN 29 2016**

Subject: APHIS Prohibits the Importation of Certain Citrus Fruit from Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective February 8, 2016, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) will prohibit the importation of tangerines, clementines, mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States. We are taking this action based on detections of live Mediterranean fruit flies (medflies) on cold-treated clementines from Morocco.

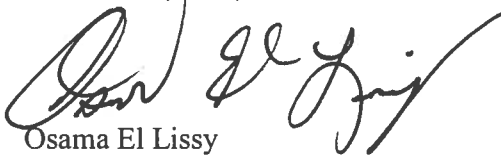
Prior to this Federal Order, tangerine, clementine, mandarin, and sweet orange fruit were authorized importation into the United States, subject to cold treatment and inspection upon arrival. However, on January 13, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live medfly larvae on commercial consignments of cold-treated clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from Morocco.

Cargo destined for any U.S. port of entry will be permitted to enter if it has:

- an onboard date that is not later than January 21, 2016;
- successfully completed cold treatment, and
- passed inspection at the U.S. port of entry prior to February 8.

APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of tangerine, clementine, mandarin, and sweet orange fruit south of 39° latitude and west of 104° longitude in the United States. These prohibitions apply to all importation and movement, including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda, PhD, at 301-851-2055 or write to him at <Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov>.



Osama El Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

## FEDERAL ORDER

Suspension of Imports of Certain Citrus fruit (*Citrus reticulata* and *Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

DA-2016-10

**JAN 29 2016**

This Federal Order suspends the importation of all tangerines, clementines, mandarin fruit (*Citrus reticulata*), and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco into the United States due to the presence of Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly).

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act 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. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act and found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* at 7 CFR 301.56.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly), a harmful plant pest, from Morocco into the United States. The APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of medfly would pose a serious threat to U.S. agriculture, including certain fruits or vegetables grown in the United States, and that this serious plant pest threat must be immediately addressed. Medfly is not known to be established in the United States except in Hawaii. It is a widespread tropical and subtropical species, ranging from South Mexico to Argentina, as well as throughout the Mediterranean and all of Africa. It is also established in Western Australia. It is estimated that the species would be able to establish populations in southern regions of the United States (Plant Hardiness Zones 9-11).

Prior to this Federal Order, tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet orange fruit were authorized importation into the United States, subject to cold treatment. However, on January 13, 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections at the port of entry in Philadelphia detected live medfly larvae on commercial consignments of cold-treated clementines (*Citrus reticulata*) from Morocco.

Effective February 8, 2016, APHIS is suspending the importation of tangerines, clementines, and mandarin fruit (*Citrus reticulata*) and sweet orange fruit (*Citrus sinensis*) from Morocco to prevent the introduction of medfly into the United States. This prohibition will remain until APHIS and Morocco's national plant protection organization investigate and take necessary actions to mitigate the pest risk. Any cargo destined for the United States will be permitted entry if it has:

- an onboard date that is not later than January 21, 2016,
- successfully completed the prescribed cold treatment, and
- passed inspection at the U.S. port of entry prior to February 8.

APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of tangerines, clementines, mandarins, and sweet orange fruit south of 39° latitude and west of 104° longitude in the United States. These prohibitions apply to all importation and movement, including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments.

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