

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2016-01

JAN - 4 2016

Subject: APHIS Suspends Imports of Peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) from Spain Due to the Detection of Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

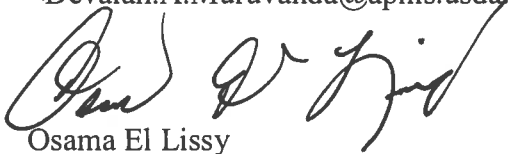
To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective December 30, 2015, APHIS is suspending the importation of peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) from Spain into the United States to prevent the introduction of the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly). APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of these materials south of 39° latitude and west of 104° longitude. APHIS is taking this action in response to multiple medfly detections during U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections of commercial consignments of peppers from Spain at ports of entry in the United States.

This suspension will be in place until APHIS investigates and determines that the importation of commercial consignments of peppers do not pose a medfly risk to U.S. agriculture.

This action is necessary to prevent the entry of medfly into the United States.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Senior Risk Manager Devaiah Muruvanda, Ph.D., at 301-851-2055, or write to him via e-mail 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 Peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) from Spain Due to Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)

DA-2016-01

JAN - 4 2016

This Federal Order suspends the importation of peppers from Spain into the United States due to the presence of Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly). This prohibition is effective December 30, 2015.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the authority provided by the Plant Protection Act (PPA) 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 301.53.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of medfly, a harmful plant pest, from Spain into the United States. The APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of medfly poses 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 occur in the United States except in Hawaii. It is a widespread tropical species, ranging from South Mexico to Argentina, 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).

During December 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections at ports of entry in the United States detected medfly at least five times on commercial consignments of peppers from Spain.

Effective December 30, 2015, APHIS is suspending all importation of peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) from Spain to prevent the introduction of medfly into the United States. APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of such materials 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, Ph.D., at 301-851-2055, or write to him via e-mail at <Devaiah.A.Muruvanda@aphis.usda.gov>.