

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA#: 2009-62

December 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Mediterranean Fruit Fly, *Ceratitis capitata* – Establishment of a New Quarantine in the Santa Monica Area of Los Angeles County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established a new Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) quarantine in the Santa Monica area of Los Angeles County, California, following the confirmation of Medflies detected in that area. APHIS is applying restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from the quarantined area. These actions are necessary in order to prevent the spread of Medfly to noninfested areas of the United States. This Medfly outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under eradication.

On October 28, 2009, two adult mated female Medflies and one adult unmated female Medfly were detected on a residential property in the Santa Monica area of Los Angeles, California. APHIS, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner, is responding to this confirmed Medfly finding. This confirmed finding triggered the establishment of the new quarantine area, which encompasses approximately 65-square miles of Los Angeles County. The quarantine area includes a residential area of Los Angeles county, with minimal to no commercial-host production.

Fruit fly traps have been deployed at protocol levels to conduct a delimitation survey surrounding the new Medfly detection site. Spinosad foliar bait spray treatments are being applied to all host trees within 200 meters of the detection site at 7-10 day intervals. As a treatment to control Medfly populations within the new quarantine area, Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) is being conducted in a 9-square-mile treatment area surrounding the detection site. SIT is an eradication tool, which consists of the massive aerial release of sterile male Medflies into the detected wild population in order to reduce reproduction. Sterile male Medflies are released at rate of 250,000-per-square-mile each week. The weekly release of sterile Medflies will continue in the Los Angeles area through two projected Medfly lifecycles, beginning with the date of the latest detection.

This action became effective on November 20, 2009. The establishment of this quarantine area will be reflected 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/plant_pest_info/fruit_flies/index.shtml

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APHIS anticipates following this action with the publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* informing the public of the change. For additional information on this Medfly Eradication program, you may contact Wayne Burnett, APHIS Exotic Fruit Fly Director, at (301) 734-6553.

/s/ Michael A. Lidsky /for

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