

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-67  
December 12, 2007

SUBJECT: *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) - Quarantined Area in Los Angeles County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed further detections of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area of Los Angeles County, California. APHIS finds it necessary to expand the designated Medfly quarantine area to include a greater portion of Los Angeles County. Portions of Los Angeles County were previously designated as a Medfly quarantine area on November 8, 2007. These actions are necessary 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.

From October 24 through December 1, 2007, eight mated and five unmated female Medflies, one male Medfly, and, 17 larvae on thirteen separate residential properties were detected in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area. These detections triggered the initiation and now the subsequent expansion of this quarantine. The expanded quarantine boundary encompasses approximately 97 square miles of Los Angeles County. This is mostly a residential area, and there is no commercial host production in the quarantine area. Most of the Port of Los Angeles and portions of the Port of Long Beach are within the quarantine area.

Fruit fly traps are being 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 200 meters of the detection sites at 7 to 10 day intervals. The release of sterile male Medflies was intensified in a 44.19-square-mile area surrounding the detection sites at a release rate of 250,000 sterile Medflies per square mile per week. The weekly release of sterile Medflies will continue through two projected Medfly life cycles in the Palos Verdes Peninsula area.

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

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

/s/ **John H. Payne for**  
Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine