APHIS Establishes Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Ceratitis capitata) Quarantine in the United States Virgin Islands, DA-2026-50

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2026-50
November 16, 2026

Subject: APHIS Establishes Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Ceratitis capitata) Quarantine in the United States Virgin Islands

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDA), is establishing a Mediterranean fruit fly (Ceratitis capitata; Medfly) quarantine in the District of Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands. This action parallels the quarantine established by VIDA on September 28, 2026.

APHIS and VIDA established the St. Croix Medfly quarantine after confirming four Medflies in the city of Christiansted. On August 17, APHIS detected an unmated female Medfly in a trap located in a Tropical almond tree on a residential property. On September 1, APHIS detected three male Medflies from two traps located in Tropical almond trees on residential properties.

The quarantine area encompasses 83.79 square miles and contains less than 1,000 acres of commercial agriculture. Crops include avocados, bananas, breadfruit, cabbage, carrots, cassava, celery, coconuts, dry corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapefruit, green beans, hay nut, herbs, lemons, lettuce, limes, mangoes, nuts, okra, onions/chives/scallions, oranges, ornamental plants, papayas, peppers, pineapples, plantains, sorrel, spinach, squash, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, taniers, tomatoes/cherry tomatoes, and yams.

To prevent this pest from spreading into other areas of the United States or entering foreign trade channels, APHIS is applying safeguarding measures and restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles. APHIS and VIDA are working together to eradicate the transient Medfly population following program guidelines for survey, treatment, and regulatory actions. This action is authorized by the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 through 7786) in accordance with 7 CFR 301.32 through 301.32-10.

Maps and descriptions of all current federal fruit fly quarantine areas are available on the APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage. APHIS will also publish a notice about this change in the *Federal Register*.

For more information, contact:

Catherine Marzolf
National Policy Manager
386-666-9932
catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov

/s/

Matthew A. Rhoads
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

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