

Mediterranean fruit fly

(*Ceratitis capitata*)

- ❑ Native to tropical Africa, now distributed worldwide in areas with Mediterranean climate. CA has quarantine laws to intercept all stages thus avoiding establishment, as well as ongoing massive releases of sterile male fruit flies.
- ❑ Hosts: Thin-skinned fruits of more than 250 plants, *e.g.* Apple, Avocado, Bitter melon, Citrus, Coffee, Guava, Mango, Papaya, Peach, Pear, Peppers, Persimmon. Damage results from oviposition in fruits and soft tissues, and feeding by maggots (larvae) resulting in decomposition of plant tissue by invading secondary microorganisms (fungi and bacteria entering larval tunnels).
- ❑ Field ID: Adult 3.5-5 mm long, with broad wings patterned with yellow and brown, eyes iridescent and multicolored. Male with pair of spatulate projections on frons, female with short telescoping ovipositor. Larva 7-9 mm long, white, cylindrical, with anterior end narrowed and flattened caudal end. Pupa 3 mm, cylindrical, dark reddish brown.

