How to Recognize the Oriental Fruit Fly

The adult fly is slightly larger than a housefly and is very colorful, with a yellow-striped abdomen and yellowish legs. The white maggots can be found burrowing through fruit. Infested fruit does not always look damaged from the outside but may take on a brown, mottled appearance as the maggots feed.

Cómo reconocer la mosca oriental de la fruta

Esta mosca es apenas mas grande que una mosca doméstica y muy colorida. Las larvas blancas pueden encontrarse haciendo túneles en la fruta. Desde afuera, la fruta infestada no siempre se nota dañada, pero a medida que los gusanos en su interior se alimentan se torna de color amarronado oscuro.

What is Being Done in California

Federal, state, and county agricultural agencies work cooperatively to keep infested fruit from entering California. Fruit from infested countries must be fumigated before it enters the state, but frequently untreated fruit is carried in by the mail and by passengers. Flies entering this way may be detected in insect traps, but often it is too late to stop an infestation. Infested properties must be treated with insecticides to prevent the spread of this damaging pest.

Qué se esta haciendo en California?

Agencias federales, estatales y municipales trabajan conjuntamente para evitar que fruta infestada entre a California. Fruta proveniente de países infestados debe ser fumigada, pero frecuentemente es transportada por correo o por pasajeros internacionales. Moscas que se introducen así inician infestaciones que son detectadas en trampas. Las áreas infestadas deben ser erradicadas usando insecticidas.

Help Keep the Oriental Fruit Fly Out of California

Everyone’s cooperation is needed to keep the Oriental fruit fly from entering California. If this pest were to become a permanent resident in our state, everyone would feel the impact.

Oriental fruit fly prevention begins with you - we all need your help!
The Danger
Oriental fruit fly is one of the most harmful of all fruit flies. It spread from southeast Asia to the Pacific Islands, and has become a major pest in Hawaii.

These flies attack over 230 different fruit, including apples, avocados, bananas, cucumbers, grapefruit, grapes, lemons, peaches, pears, plums, peppers, tomatoes, and walnuts. The female fly deposits 10 to 100 eggs under the skin of the fruit. Maggots hatch and tunnel through the pulp, turning it into a rotten mass.

The Oriental fruit fly can multiply and spread rapidly. Adult flies are very active and can move several miles a day. Females can lay up to 1,500 eggs in their lifetime.

If the Oriental fruit fly became established in California, backyard trees and commercial orchards would soon become infested, resulting in:

- A federal quarantine on most California produce.
- Higher prices for fruit.
- Maggoty fruit for the gardener or shopper.
- Massive increases in the use of pesticide.

What can you do to help?

- Allow state and county workers free access to your property to install and monitor insect traps and to inspect fruit.
- Cooperate with quarantine laws. Do not bring untreated fruit from infested areas into the state. Do not transport fruit or soil out of a quarantined area.
- If you see a fly or maggot resembling those pictured in this leaflet, REPORT IT TO THE STATE OR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Que Puede Hacer Usted Para Ayudar?

- Permite a los trabajadores del estado y condado que coloquen y monitoreen trampas, y que además inspeccionen fruta.
- Coopere con las leyes de cuarentena. No traiga al estado fruta no tratada proveniente de lugares infestados. No saque fruta o suelo fuera de las áreas bajo cuarentena.
- Si usted ve una mosca o gusano que se asemejan a los de las fotos de este panfleto, REPORTELO AL DEPARTAMENTO DE AGRICULTURA DEL ESTADO O CONDADO.