

Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine in Your Area

What to expect from agriculture officials in your area

Based on recent Mexican fruit fly detections, a quarantine has been established in your area, which prohibits the movement of fruit and vegetables within and outside of the quarantine boundaries.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Throughout the quarantine area, you may see agriculture officials in your neighborhood placing traps, inspecting plants, conducting necessary treatments, or removing potentially infested produce. If a Mexican fruit fly adult or larvae is detected on a residential property during any of these activities, a hold notice will be issued to the property owner restricting the movement of any Mexican fruit fly host fruit or vegetables from the property.

Officials conducting residential activities will have an identification badge indicating their affiliation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and/or a uniform shirt or patch identifying their affiliation with CDFA, State Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, your local county agricultural commissioner's office or contractors working with CDFA. Officials will **never** ask to enter your home.

Trapping

Traps are placed on branches of host trees by agriculture officials in residential neighborhoods to detect populations of the Mexican fruit fly.

Surveying

Fruit on or near properties where a Mexican fruit fly has been found may be inspected for possible larval (maggot) infestation by cutting open a small sample of host fruit for further inspection.

- A CDFA Advance Notification of Fruit Cutting may be left at the residence at least 48 hours before the scheduled fruit-cutting date.
- Residents do not have to be present for the fruit cutting.
- If not present, the resident is asked to leave gates unlocked and to secure pets on the date indicated on the notice.
- The surveyor will contact the property owner to request access to the yard.
 - If the property owner is not home, the surveyor will return later to initiate contact.
 - If Mexican fruit fly host plants are in the front yard and unfenced, the surveyor may survey trees that are accessible.



Response Activities

Residential properties near Mexican fruit fly populations may see various activities in their neighborhood designed to eliminate populations. The response activities for these properties consist of an organic foliar bait spray, potentially host fruit removal and sterile insect technique (SIT), described in detail below.

Organic Foliar Bait Spray

- A CDFA Advance Notification of Organic Foliar Bait Spray will be left at the residence at least 48 hours before the scheduled treatment date.
 - CDFA staff will work with the resident to address special concerns and schedule treatment, if requested.
 - Residents do not have to be present for the treatment.
 - If not present, the resident is asked to leave gates unlocked and to secure pets on the date indicated on the treatment notice.
- On the day of treatment:
 - CDFA staff will knock on the door of the residence when arriving.
 - CDFA staff will identify suitable ornamental trees and shrubs and Mexican fruit fly hosts for treatment with an organic foliar bait spray. The foliage of host trees, ornamental trees and/or shrubs will be spot treated with an organic foliar bait spray.
- CDFA will leave a post-treatment notice once they have completed the organic foliar bait spray. This will include information about the treatment and directions for the safe consumption of residential fruit.



Host Fruit Removal

Removal of host fruit from residences with or near detections of breeding Mexican fruit fly populations is an effective way to help reduce populations of the Mexican fruit fly.

- A CDFA Advance Notification of Mandatory Fruit Removal will be left at the residence at least 48 hours before the scheduled host fruit removal. If your property needs to be rescheduled, a Fruit Removal Reschedule Notice will be left at the property.
- On the day of host fruit removal:
 - CDFA staff will knock on the residence door when arriving.
 - CDFA staff will identify Mexican fruit fly hosts for the pickers.
 - Pickers will begin work using hands and tools to pick all available fruit from host trees and the ground, and properly dispose of it.
 - The yard will be cleaned of debris including dropped fruit.
- A CDFA Post Notification of Fruit Removal will be provided to the resident or left at the residence. The notification will tell you what parts of your property were visited by the fruit removal crew.

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)

A sterile insect technique will be used to eliminate Mexican fruit fly populations by releasing sterile male Mexican fruit flies via specialized aircraft and/or trucks in the project area to disrupt the natural Mexican fruit fly mating cycle. The sterile males mate with wild females, which results in no viable offspring. Upon release of sterile male Mexican fruit flies, residents may see fruit flies around their property. While it is encouraged to remain vigilant and continue reporting fruit fly detections, residents should know this may be due to the approved SIT program.

For more information, call CDFA at 1-800-491-1899. For online information, including the most up-to-date quarantine maps, visit [CAFruitFly.com](https://www.cdffruitfly.com).