

FOR INFORMATION

DA-2015-14

March 18, 2015

Subject: APHIS Restricts Imports of Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*)
Host Commodities from The Dominican Republic into or through the
United States

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, APHIS is restricting imports of certain fruits and vegetables from the Dominican Republic into the United States to prevent the introduction of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly). APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of these materials south of 39° latitude. APHIS is taking this action in response to multiple detections of Medfly in the Punta Cana region of the Dominican Republic.

The following commodities are prohibited from the Dominican Republic:

- avocado
- clementine
- grape
- grapefruit
- lemon
- litchi
- longan
- mamey (sapote)
- mandarin
- mango
- orange
- papaya
- pepper
- pummelo
- tangelo
- tangerine
- tomato
- tuna (cactus fruit)

Commercial shipments of mangoes from the Dominican Republic will continue to be enterable under the conditions of the APHIS hot water treatment preclearance program.

This action is necessary immediately to prevent the entry of Medfly into the United States.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Tony Román at 301-851-2242 or via email at Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov.



Osama El Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) Host Material from the Dominican Republic

DA-2015-14

March 18, 2015

This Federal Order immediately suspends imports of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) fruit and vegetable hosts from the Dominican Republic.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the authority provided by the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of June 20, 2000. As amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of Medfly, a harmful plant pest, from the Dominican Republic into the United States. The APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of Medfly poses a serious threat to United States agriculture, including certain fruits or vegetables grown in the United States, and that this serious plant pest threat must be immediately addressed. Medfly is not known to occur in the United States except in Hawaii. It is a widespread tropical species, ranging from South Mexico to Argentina and throughout the Mediterranean region and all of Africa. It is also established in Western Australia. It is estimated that the species would be able to establish populations in southern regions of the United States (Plant Hardiness Zones 9-11).

On March 13, 2015, the National Plant Protection Organization of the Dominican Republic notified APHIS of confirmed Medfly captures in the Punta Cana area. Effective immediately, APHIS is suspending all importations of fruit and vegetable commodities known to be Medfly hosts from the Dominican Republic to prevent the introduction of Medfly into the United States. APHIS is also prohibiting overland in-bond transit movements of such materials south of 39° latitude in the United States. These prohibitions apply to all importation and movement including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments.

The following commodities from the Dominican Republic are prohibited:

- avocado
- clementine
- grape
- grapefruit
- lemon
- litchi
- longan
- mamey (sapote)
- mandarin
- mango*
- orange
- papaya
- pepper
- pummelo
- tangelo
- tangerine
- tomato
- tuna (cactus fruit)

**Commercial shipments of mangoes from the Dominican Republic will continue to be enterable under the conditions of the APHIS hot water treatment preclearance program.*

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist Tony Román at 301-851-2242 or via email at Juan.A.Roman@aphis.usda.gov.