

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2018-42

December 3, 2018

Subject: APHIS Establishes a Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) Quarantine in Laredo, Webb County, Texas

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective November 2, 2018, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established a Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens* or Mexfly) quarantine in a residential area of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. APHIS is applying safeguarding measures and restrictions on the interstate movement or entry into foreign trade of regulated articles from this area.

On November 2, APHIS confirmed a mated female Mexfly in Laredo, Texas. APHIS, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), is responding to this confirmed detection with the establishment of a new quarantine area, which encompasses approximately 37.6 square miles of Laredo, Webb County. There is no commercial citrus nor are there packing sheds within the quarantine area. APHIS is working with TDA to respond to this detection following program survey and treatment protocols. This action is necessary to prevent the spread of Mexfly to non-infested areas of the United States.

The establishment of this quarantine area is reflected on the following designated website, which contains a description of all the current federal fruit fly quarantine areas:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/ff-quarantine>

For additional information on the Mexfly quarantine area, please contact the National Fruit Fly Policy Manager, Richard Johnson, at 301-851-2109.



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine