

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2025-38

September 23, 2025

Subject: APHIS Modifies Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Core Areas of a Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine in Texas

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the requirements, previously established in Federal Order [DA-2016-05](#), for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from core areas of a Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, Mexfly) quarantine in Texas. The attached Federal Order (with the attached protocol) supersedes Federal Order DA-2016-05 with respect to the Mexfly quarantine in Texas. Federal Order DA-2016-05 also includes conditions for movement of tomato fruit from a Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Medfly) quarantine.

APHIS is separating the requirements for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine from the requirements for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from the Mexfly quarantine in Texas. APHIS will re-issue the requirements for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine in a separate Federal Order, although the requirements for the tomato fruit included in DA-2016-05 will remain unchanged. Thus, DA-2016-05 will remain in effect related to the Medfly quarantine until APHIS issues the aforementioned new Federal Order.

Federal Order DA-2016-05 established three options for the systems approach to allow the movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexfly quarantine in Texas without the need to use standard post-harvest treatments. Two of the options provided requirements for the movement of fresh citrus fruit from commercial groves that were not under a preventive release program (PRP). A PRP uses the sterile insect technique (SIT) to suppress Mexfly introductions. APHIS now maintains a PRP over all commercial citrus production in Texas and is therefore amending the requirements.

The protocol in the attached Federal Order with the revised systems approach provides three schedules for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from commercial groves in core areas of a quarantine in Texas that are under PRP prior to APHIS triggering a Mexfly quarantine. In the protocol, APHIS continues to provide an option to growers for the movement of fresh citrus fruit from groves in core areas in Texas of a Mexfly quarantine not under PRP and who don't conduct post-harvest treatment (Schedule 4 in the attached protocol) prior to the triggering of a Mexfly quarantine. The protocol maintains several levels of safeguarding, including enhanced trapping, bait sprays, and sterile Mexfly release, while also improving clarity of the requirements to facilitate implementation and ensure compliance. The protocol also provides modified detection thresholds to better align with other fruit fly systems approach protocols and clarifies that it only applies to groves within core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas.

The revised systems approach provides domestic growers additional options for marketing fresh citrus fruit harvested from core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas other than applying a post-

harvest treatment. Post-harvest treatments are expensive, sometimes unavailable to growers, and often reduce the shelf life and commercial viability of the fruit.

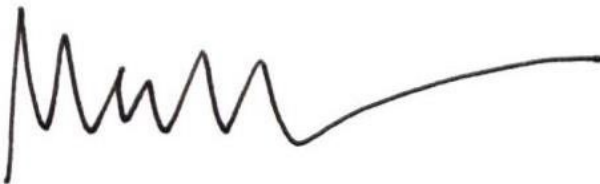
The protocol does not change APHIS' allowance, with regulatory approval, of the unlimited interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit out of groves in a Mexfly quarantine in Texas for a post-harvest treatment included in the [APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements \(ACIR\) database's Treatment Manual](#) pursuant to [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 305.2](#), or for processing for juice.

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of Mexfly host articles from all Mexfly quarantines in the United States in accordance with [7 CFR 301.32 through 301.32-10](#) and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

The [APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage](#) contains a description of all current Federal fruit fly quarantines, regulated articles/host lists, and this Federal Order.

For additional information you may contact:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew A. Rhoads', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew A. Rhoads
Acting Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

FEDERAL ORDER

APHIS Modifies Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Core Areas
of a Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine in Texas

DA-2025-38
September 23, 2025

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. 7701 through 7786](#) Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. 7712\(a\)](#)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, among other things, to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by [7 U.S.C. 7754](#) allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 301.32 through 301.32-10](#) (hereafter referred to as “the regulations”).

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, Mexfly) host articles from all areas quarantined for Mexfly in the United States in accordance with the regulations and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the requirements, previously established in Federal Order [DA-2016-05](#), for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas. This Federal Order does not change the requirements necessary to export fresh citrus fruit. This Federal Order (with the attached protocol) supersedes Federal Order DA-2016-05 with respect to the interstate movement of citrus fruit from the core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas.

Federal Order DA-2016-05 also includes conditions for movement of citrus fruit from a Mexfly quarantine and tomato fruit from a Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Medfly) quarantine. APHIS is separating the requirements for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine from the requirements for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas. APHIS will re-issue the requirements for the interstate movement of tomato fruit from a Medfly quarantine in a separate Federal Order to assist stakeholders, although the requirements for the tomato fruit included in DA-2016-05 will remain unchanged. Thus, DA-2016-05 will remain in effect related to the Medfly quarantine until APHIS issues the aforementioned new Federal Order.

Federal Order DA-2016-05 established three options for the systems approach to allow the movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexfly quarantine in Texas without the use of standard post-harvest treatment. Two of the options provided requirements for the movement of fresh citrus fruit from commercial groves that were not under a preventive release program (PRP). A

PRP uses the sterile insect technique (SIT) to suppress Mexfly introductions. Currently, APHIS maintains a PRP over all commercial citrus production in Texas and is therefore amending the requirements.

Growers requested that APHIS provide additional flexibility for shipping citrus fruit from commercial groves that are in the core area of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas due to the unavailability of treatment options, the treatments being cost-prohibitive, or the treatments reducing the shelf life and commercial viability of the fruit. Accordingly, APHIS has revised the systems approach. The attached protocol with the revised systems approach provides three schedules for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from commercial citrus groves in core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas under PRP prior to APHIS triggering a Mexfly quarantine. The protocol maintains several levels of safeguarding including enhanced trapping, bait sprays, and sterile Mexfly release, while also improving clarity of the requirements to facilitate implementation and ensure compliance. It also provides modified detection thresholds to better-align with other fruit fly systems approach protocols. In the protocol, APHIS continues to provide a schedule for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from commercial groves in core areas of a Mexfly quarantine in Texas not under PRP prior to the triggering of a Mexfly quarantine, in case it is needed.

In Texas, the annual harvest season can start as early as mid-October, and peak commercial harvest is between December 1 and April 1. Two of the schedules limit distribution to only those states where local conditions and host material are unsuitable for Mexfly establishment.

The protocol is not the only mechanism available to growers to move citrus fruit harvested from core areas of Mexfly quarantines in Texas. APHIS allows, with regulatory approval, the unlimited interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit out of groves within a Mexfly quarantine in Texas for a post-harvest treatment included in the [APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements \(ACIR\) database's Treatment Manual](#) pursuant to [7 CFR 305.2](#), or for processing for juice.

As stated in [7 CFR 301.32-10\(b\)](#), growers may move citrus fruit harvested from groves in a Mexfly quarantine outside the core area following both pre-harvest and during-harvest treatments.

The [APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage](#) contains a description of all current Federal fruit fly quarantines, regulated articles/host lists, and this Federal Order.

For additional information you may contact:

Catherine Marzolf, APHIS PPQ National Policy Manager, at Catherine.A.Marzolf@usda.gov or 386-666-9932.

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**Protocol for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from a Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine
in Texas**

September 23, 2025

This protocol provides conditions for the interstate movement of citrus fruit harvested from a Mexfly quarantine in Texas and applies to all commercial citrus production. Table 1 provides a summary of the requirements for the movement of citrus from groves in a quarantine based on the treatment conditions, location, and detections. Figure 1 provides a flowchart that identifies the conditions growers must follow for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexfly quarantine in Texas.

A. General Requirements: Compliance Agreements, Certification, Labeling, and Inspection

1. Facilities engaged in growing and the interstate shipping of fresh citrus fruit produced in a Mexfly quarantine in Texas must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) before shipping under this protocol. *See [7 CFR 301.32-6](#)*. A regulatory official will evaluate the local situation prior to initiation of the compliance agreement. The compliance agreement will specify the relevant systems approach schedule from the protocol in the attached Appendix of this Federal Order that applies to the grower.
2. Packing houses and commercial shippers of fresh citrus fruit must also enter into compliance agreements to ensure that there is no commingling of regulated and non-regulated fruit.
3. The compliance agreements may also specify additional necessary conditions determined by APHIS and/or TDA to prevent the spread of Mexfly through the interstate movement of citrus fruit. Finally, the compliance agreement will specify that APHIS or TDA may amend the compliance agreement, and communicate any such amendments to the grower, packing house, or shipper, as appropriate.
4. Growers, packing houses, and shippers must agree to all the terms and conditions of their appropriate compliance agreement and must adhere to all other relevant conditions of the regulations to ship citrus fruit pursuant to this Federal Order. If APHIS or TDA determines that a grower, packing house, or shipper has failed to continually adhere to any of the terms or conditions of the compliance agreement or any of the relevant conditions of the regulations, APHIS or TDA may cancel the compliance agreement, orally or in writing, and the entity may not ship citrus fruit under its conditions. *See [7 CFR 301.32-6\(b\)](#)*.
5. Any person whose compliance agreement has been canceled may appeal the decision in writing to the APHIS Administrator within 10 days of receiving the written notification of the cancellation. The appeal must state all the facts and reasons upon which the person relies to justify the wrongful cancellation of a compliance agreement. The Administrator

will grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for the decision, as promptly as circumstances allow. If there is a conflict as to material fact, a hearing will be held to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing will be adopted by the Administrator. See [7 CFR 301.32-6\(b\)](#).

6. A Limited Permit issued by an APHIS or TDA inspector, verifying that the shipment meets all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements stipulated in the compliance agreement, must accompany the fresh citrus fruit found eligible for interstate movement under the systems approach. A copy of this permit must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill. See [7 CFR 310.32-5 \(b\) through \(d\)](#).
7. Citrus fruit for limited distribution must be properly labeled. Boxes or other containers of regulated citrus and shipping documents accompanying the containers must be clearly marked with the statement "Limited Distribution: USDA-APHIS-PPQ. Not for distribution in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States." The Limited Permit will also state the grove of origin and that "This fruit is eligible for limited distribution only."
8. Citrus fruit destined for export markets must continue to meet the requirements established by APHIS and the destination foreign market.
9. Program staff will initiate delimitation trapping following each Mexfly detection at a rate of 20 traps per square mile in the nine-square miles surrounding the detection in areas under PRP. Delimitation trapping in residential and other areas not under PRP will follow a separate delimitation plan with increased traps per square mile described in the current action plan.
10. Program staff will conduct larval surveys following each fly detection, extended to all properties within a 200-meter radius of the find. At least 100 pieces of fruit selected at random from host plants in the immediate area of the adult capture(s) must be cut open and closely examined for signs of oviposition stings, larvae, or exit holes left by larvae. Experienced personnel, trained to inspect for all larval stages, will conduct this inspection on the property or collect the fruit for processing in the laboratory.
11. The adoption and use of this protocol are subject to monitoring by an inspector who is responsible for documenting inspection and compliance.

B. Requirements for Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from a Mexfly Quarantine Outside of Core Areas

1. Fresh citrus fruit from groves located within the quarantine boundary but outside of the core area for each quarantine-triggering Mexfly detection must be enrolled in a 30-day pre-harvest bait spray treatment as described in [7 CFR 32-10\(b\)](#).
2. The area must be under a detection-level trapping program.
3. Fresh citrus fruit that meets these requirements are eligible for unlimited domestic distribution.

C. Systems Approach Requirements for the Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit Harvested from Core Areas in a Mexfly Quarantine without Post-Harvest Treatment

The major components of the systems approach are (1) area of low pest prevalence, (2) certified pre-harvest foliar bait spray treatments, and (3) limited distribution of shipped fruits. These components may vary depending on the specific grove.

1. Area of Low Pest Prevalence. Growers must participate in a regulatory trapping program on the production site in a core area to be considered an area of low pest prevalence when a Mexfly quarantine action is triggered. APHIS and TDA officials will complete the regulated trapping program activities which will consist of the following:
 - a. There must be one trap per 25 acres with at least one trap per grove.
 - b. Traps must be baited with food-based attractants (Torula yeast or the 2-component lure of ammonium acetate plus putrescine) in either a McPhail or Multilure® trap. Traps should be serviced every seven days.
 - c. When there is a new Mexfly detection within a grove, which does not trigger a quarantine, that grove and immediately adjacent groves shipping under a systems approach must increase trapping from one trap per 25 acres to four traps per 25 acres. Note: capture of additional flies within a grove does not reset the clock in terms of the number of days of trapping or bait spray treatments required prior to movement.
 - d. If a quarantine-triggering detection occurs within a grove that is currently under this systems approach, and if there are no further detections in the grove, the systems approach will be suspended for the time equal to three lifecycles from the quarantine-triggering detection, based on the degree-day model.
2. Certified Pre-harvest Foliar Bait Spray. Treatments in quarantine core areas must begin prior to harvest and continue through the end of harvest using certified applicators.
3. Limited Distribution. Shipments of citrus fruit from groves in a core area which have experienced non-quarantine triggering detections are prohibited from distribution to Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.
4. Citrus fruit from groves that have experienced a quarantine-triggering detection will be ineligible for movement unless an approved post-harvest treatment is applied.

If any portion of a grove within a core area of a quarantine falls within an area not eligible for systems approach, the entire grove is ineligible for the systems approach.

I. Schedules Available for Shipment of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Core Areas of a Mexfly Quarantine in Texas Under a Preventive Release Program (PRP)

Schedule 1: Full Measures

This schedule is available for shipment of fresh citrus fruit from core areas in the quarantine in Texas to all domestic destinations for sale and distribution when growers meet the following conditions:

1. The grove must be under PRP before a Mexfly quarantine is triggered.
2. The grove must be under at least 30 days of regulatory trapping, beginning 30 days prior to harvest and continuing through to the end of harvest. Trap density in the core area must be one trap per 25 acres, with at least a minimum of one trap per grove.

3. The grove must be under pre-harvest certified bait sprays beginning no fewer than 30 days prior to harvest and continuing through the end of harvest, using either malathion or spinosad.
4. The grove must have no Mexfly detections during the regulatory trapping period.
5. Sale/distribution is unlimited to domestic destinations.

Schedule 2: Shortened Measures

This schedule is only available for shipment of fresh citrus fruit from a citrus grove that has had zero Mexfly detections during the current harvest season, both before the quarantine was triggered and during the entire regulatory trapping period. Fruit harvested from core areas of the grove may be shipped fresh to specified areas when the following conditions have been met:

1. The grove must be under PRP before a Mexfly quarantine is triggered.
2. The grove must be under at least 14 days of regulatory trapping with zero flies captured in the grove prior to harvest and continuing through the end of harvest. Trap density in the core area is four traps per 25 acres.
3. The grove must be under pre-harvest certified bait sprays beginning 30 days prior to harvest and continuing through the end of harvest, using either malathion or spinosad.
4. The grove must have no Mexfly detections during the current growing season.
5. Sale/distribution is limited, with specific domestic destinations excluded until the 30-day trapping period is met.

The rationale for this schedule is that by following these requirements, fruit can move faster than in Schedule 1 because it is very unlikely that the fruit were exposed to mated female Mexflies. This schedule only allows limited distribution of harvested fruit to safeguard citrus-producing states. If the grove reaches 30 days of regulatory trapping before harvest, then it can follow Schedule 1, eligible for unrestricted distribution.

Any grove with one to four new fly captures during regulatory trapping will become ineligible for Schedule 2 but would still be eligible for Schedule 3.

Schedule 3: Non-Quarantine-Triggering Detections

This schedule is available for shipment of fresh citrus fruit harvested from core areas in groves which have had Mexfly detections but not had quarantine-triggering detections. It requires certified bait spraying and regulatory trapping to begin 30 days before harvest and continue until the end of harvest. All fruit in the grove may be shipped fresh through limited distribution if the following conditions are met:

1. The grove must be under PRP before a Mexfly quarantine is triggered.
2. The grove must be under at least 30 days of regulatory trapping with no quarantine-triggering Mexfly detections. Trap density in the core area is four traps per 25 acres.

3. The grove must be under pre-harvest certified bait sprays beginning 30 days prior to harvest and continuing through the end of harvest, using either malathion or spinosad.
4. The grove may have one to four non-quarantine triggering detections.
5. Sale/distribution is limited, with specific domestic destinations excluded.

The rationale for this schedule is that the cumulative effects of the requirements greatly lower the likelihood of any fruit being exposed to mated females while mandating at least 30 days of regulatory trapping minimizes the possibility that a cryptic (undetected) population is present in the shipment.

II. Schedule for Shipment of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Core Areas of a Mexfly Quarantine in Texas Not Under a Preventive Release Program (PRP)

Schedule 4: Non-PRP

This schedule is available for shipment of fresh citrus fruit from core areas in groves which have not had quarantine-triggering detections and are not under PRP before a Mexfly quarantine is triggered. Under this schedule, all fresh citrus fruit harvested from core areas in the quarantine are eligible for limited movement for sale and distribution. It requires certified bait spraying and regulatory trapping to begin 30 days before harvest and continue until the end of harvest. All fresh fruit from core areas in the grove may be shipped fresh to specific areas if the following conditions are met:

1. The grove must be under at least 30 days of regulatory trapping, beginning 30 days prior to harvest and continuing through the end of harvest. Trap density in the core area is four traps per 25 acres.
2. The grove must be under pre-harvest certified bait sprays beginning within 72 hours of first detection of a Mexfly and continuing weekly through the end of harvest, using either malathion or spinosad.
3. The grove must have a minimum of 30 days of certified bait sprays after the establishment of the quarantine prior to harvest.
4. The grove must have no Mexfly detections during the regulatory trapping period.
5. Sale/distribution is limited, with specific domestic destinations excluded.

D. Definitions

Citrus block or grove. A cultivated stand of citrus trees of indeterminate size. The block or grove may be a continuous stand or may be further subdivided into physically separated sections. These sections must be separated by at least 25 feet from other such sections.

Core Area. The area within a circle surrounding each site where fruit flies have been detected using a ½-mile radius with the detection site as a center point.

Foliar Bait Spray. An insecticide formulation that contains a bait substance combined with a toxicant to attract and kill the pest of concern; generally applied to the underside of leaves of host plants at the rate and timing specified on the label.

Inspector. Any employee of APHIS or other person authorized by the Administrator to enforce the regulations.

Larval survey. 100 pieces of fruit selected at random from host plants in the immediate area of the adult capture(s) cut open and closely examined for signs of oviposition stings, larvae, or exit holes left by larvae.

Limited distribution. Allowed movement of citrus fruit within the State of Texas and other states or territories in the United States, except for Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Carolina, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Preventive release program (PRP). The routine release of sterile Mexflies over an area, even in the absence of detections. Conducted at a release rate at or above 250 sterile males per acre per week.

Quarantine-triggering detection. The confirmation of a single larva, pupa, or mated wild female (if found to be mated with a non-sterile male), or any combination of five adult flies (males or unmated females) detected within a 3-mile radius during the time span of one generation.

Regulatory Trapping. Required level of trapping within a core area at a rate of one trap per 25 acres with at least one trap per grove to support regulatory activities. When additional flies are detected in the grove, the density is raised to four traps per 25 acres. Trap placement in groves is 20-30 meters away from the edge of the grove, if possible.

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). A method of biological insect control whereby overwhelming numbers of sterile insects are released into the wild. Wild females that mate with a sterile male produce no offspring, thus reducing the next generation's population.

Table 1. Summary of requirements for the movement of fresh citrus fruit from groves inside a Mexfly quarantine based on location, treatment conditions, and detections.

Schedule	Location	Conditions	Detections	Movement
7 CFR 32-10(b)				
	Outside core	30 days bait spray, detection-level trapping	Zero detections	Unrestricted
Schedule 1: Full Measures				
	Inside core	PRP, 30 days bait spray, 30 days regulatory trapping	Zero detections	Unrestricted
Schedule 2: Shortened Measures				
	Inside core	PRP, 30 days bait spray, ≥ 14 days enhanced regulatory trapping	Zero detections	Limited Distribution
Schedule 3: Non-Quarantine Triggering Detections				
	Inside core	PRP, 30 days bait spray, 30 days regulatory trapping	1-4 detections (males or unmated females) and zero larval detections	Limited Distribution
Schedule 4: Non-PRP				
	Inside core	Non-PRP, 30 days bait spray, 30 days regulatory trapping	Zero detections	Limited Distribution
Ineligible for Systems Approach				
	Inside core	PRP and Non-PRP	1 or more larvae/pupae OR 1 mated female OR 5 or more flies	No movement outside of quarantine ¹

¹ Fruit may not be moved outside of the quarantine unless juiced or an approved post-harvest treatment is applied, or if the movement has safeguards and regulatory approval for transfer to a juicing facility or for an approved post-harvest treatment.

Figure 1. Flowchart for the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from a Mexfly quarantine.

