



# European Cherry Fruit Fly Surveys in New York

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS AGM) survey for the European cherry fruit fly (ECFF) to protect farmers and the agricultural industry. Finding the pest early helps keep cherries pest-free and protecting access to important markets. Without this work, infestations could damage crops and limit where New York cherries can be sold. These efforts support growers in New York and across the country and help keep U.S. cherries moving safely to consumers.

## What is the ECFF and why is it a threat?

The ECFF, *Rhagoletis cerasi*, can be a major pest that attacks cherries. The larvae feed inside ripening fruit, causing it to rot and drop from the tree. ECFF can spread to new places when infested cherries, soil, or other host fruits are moved. APHIS first found the pest in 2017 on traps placed along the Niagara River in Niagara County, New York.

## What is the ECFF survey?

The ECFF survey helps track where the ECFF is and prevent it from spreading. APHIS will place about 2,000 traps across Western and Central New York, within the ECFF quarantine. APHIS will also place traps outside the quarantine area in locations at higher risk for the pest.

## What do the traps look like?

The trap is a yellow, rectangular cardboard panel trap coated on both sides with a nontoxic glue. A red plug containing the food bait hangs at the top of the trap. The trap is about 9 inches long and hang vertically in trees.

## Do the traps really catch the fruit flies?

The traps are used to detect new infestations and track where the fly is spreading. They are not designed to catch enough fruit flies to reduce their populations.

## How do the traps work?

Adult fruit flies are attracted to the ammonium acetate food bait on the trap. When they land on it, they get stuck in the nontoxic glue. APHIS and NYS AGM check the traps at least every two weeks to replace the bait and collect any insects caught.



## If a trap is in my area, does that mean ECFF is there?

No. Seeing a trap in your area does not mean ECFF is present. It just means we are checking for the pest. The survey helps determine where the insect is and how it may be spreading.

## What were the results of the 2025 survey in New York?

The 2025 survey in New York found 808 ECFFs at 67 trap locations. These findings helped guide where traps will be placed for the 2026 survey.

## Where will traps be set this year?

For the 2026 season, surveyors will place traps along the edge of the quarantined areas in Western and Central New York and outside the quarantine area in locations at higher risk for the pest.

## How can I help?

Please allow APHIS and NYS AGM surveyors access to your property to place and check traps. If you have questions, you can contact the ECFF program office at 1-800-249-2363 or [ppq.ecff@usda.gov](mailto:ppq.ecff@usda.gov). Learn more at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/ecff](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/ecff).