

# USDA declares Fla. Medfly eradicated

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Mediterranean fruit fly has been eradicated from Florida and all quarantine restrictions were lifted Nov. 13, officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

The action released from quarantine a 52-square mile area of Tampa in Hillsborough County

were five Medflies were found the first Aug. 4 and the last Aug. 14, said Harvey Ford, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"The cooperative effort worked well from the time the first fly was found," Ford said. "The quick action taken by Florida on trap-

ping, pesticide application and regulation of movement of host commodities was instrumental in getting this infestation cleaned up quickly."

The eradication effort began Aug. 4, when the first fly was found. The identity of the adult fly found in a trap in a calamondin

tree was confirmed Aug. 5. Florida began treating host trees from the ground in the immediate area Aug. 7, and began aerial malathion spraying Aug. 11. Parallel state-federal emergency regulations were put into effect Aug. 12.

By the end of the program, ten pesticide application had been made on a weekly basis. Three life cycles of the Medfly had to pass

after Aug. 14—the day the last fly was found—before officials could declare the pest eradicated.

Medflies attack over 200 fruits and vegetables. Adult flies lay eggs under the skin of fruit. Developing larvae feed on fruit flesh, rendering it useless. A current infestation of the pest is under regulation in areas of California.



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