

PEACH FRUIT FLY ALERT

By Margaret Stelmok, Agriculture and Standards Biologist,
Sutter County Agriculture Department

Peach fruit fly, *Bactrocera zonata*, a little-known pest of a variety of commercially grown fruits and vegetables, was discovered in the Mayfair district of Fresno on May 15, 2006. County insect trappers discovered flies in residential areas on the western and southwestern edges of Fresno, and officials from the Fresno County Agriculture Department suspect that the pest was introduced from Asia into the United States by travelers illegally importing fruit. A single guava fruit fly was also trapped in the Fresno area. Peach fruit fly is native to parts of Asia including India, Egypt, Thailand, Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Taiwan.



After the discovery of at least six flies, the California Department of Agriculture initiated a State Interior Quarantine, which established a 4.5-mile buffer zone surrounding the initial trap finds and restricts the movement of fruits and vegetables known to be fruit fly hosts, as well as soil and containers. Growers inside this area will be required to enter into compliance agreements with CDFA that specify how their commodities are to be treated with insecticides, harvested and shipped. The Fresno and Madera Agriculture Departments have increased trapping densities in the quarantined area. Since a large proportion of the area is non-agricultural, agricultural officials are urging residents not to move any fruit or vegetables from their properties, and to consume, preserve, or double bag and dispose of all backyard fruit.

Crop damage occurs when an adult female fly lays eggs in fruits and vegetables. The larvae feed on and contaminate produce, making it unfit for consumption. The implications for this find are serious. Fresno County was California's number one producer of all agricultural commodities in 2003 & 2004. Fresno and Madera Counties also lead in the production of several of the fly's favorite hosts, including peaches, almonds, apricots, nectarines, plums, prunes, citrus, melons, and tomatoes. As these are also principle crops in Yuba and Sutter Counties, this pest can pose a local threat as well.

To eradicate the flies already in the area, CDFA is conducting a "male annihilation" project within the quarantine area. This tactic uses bait stations stocked with a pheromone-Dibrom cocktail designed to attract and kill the male flies. According to A.G. Kawamura, CDFA Secretary, male annihilation projects have successfully eradicated several previous fruit fly infestations.

In Sutter County, we maintain McPhail insect traps, which are designed to attract a variety of fruit flies, including the olive fruit fly and peach fruit fly. Additionally, we participate in the statewide trapping program that targets Mediterranean fruit fly, Mexican fruit fly, melon fruit fly, Oriental fruit fly, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, European pine shoot moth, and the Khapra beetle, a storage facility pest.

SOURCES:

CDFA Press Release, Wednesday, May 24, 2006

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, October 2005; [Summary of County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports, 2003-2004](#)

Text of California State Interior Quarantine 3424 against hosts and possible carriers of *Bactrocera zonata*.

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/peach_ff_profile.htm

CDFA Pest Detection and Emergency Projects Branch

Fresno Bee, May 18, 19, 2006 articles.

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Insect Trapping Guide, 2005](#)