

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why was my house selected for trap placement?

A: We look for sites with easy trap service access, such as front and side yards having healthy trees with fruit in season and/or rose bushes in bloom. We always try to contact the homeowner before we use the site. If no one is at home, we leave a door hanger with program explanation and contact information at the site.

Q: How long will the trap stay on my property? How often will it be checked?

A: Traps usually stay for six weeks before being moved to another location. McPhail traps are checked on a weekly basis. Jackson traps are checked every other week.

Q: Does the trap affect the fruit?

A: The traps do not affect the fruit, other than potentially protecting the fruit from being destroyed by an insect pest.

Q: What if I don't want a trap placed in my yard?

A: Please contact us. Refer to the Pest Detection Division contact information on the back of this pamphlet.



**Have more questions?
Visit
whatisthisbug.org
cdfa.ca.gov**



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

acwm.lacounty.gov

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This information is available
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PEST DETECTION PROGRAM



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

PEST DETECTION PROGRAM

Introduction of exotic insect pests pose threats to farm crops, forests, parks and home gardens of all California residents. When an insect pest is introduced into an area in which it doesn't naturally occur, it can multiply and spread quickly. Without presence of their natural enemies, these pests could flourish in Los Angeles County. Increases in their populations could potentially destroy many acres of fruit trees and other plants. Invasive pest species cost our state more than \$3 billion annually.

Exotic fruit flies are of great concern to the agricultural industry in California. The larval (maggot) stage of fruit flies can damage most of the fruits and vegetables grown in our state.

These and other exotic pests have not become established in California due to:

- Federal exterior and state interior quarantines
- A pest detection program
- Aggressive eradication programs when an infestation is discovered

Smuggled and/or illegally imported fruit is the most common pathway of fruit fly entry into California.

Our Department, with the assistance of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), establishes and maintains insect pest detection traps throughout the county. Our uniformed staff visits 95,000 properties annually, and performs 200,000 trap inspections. By allowing us to place traps on your property, you can help us protect California agriculture and our environment from these invasive pests. There is no charge for this service.

EXOTIC PESTS

Several species of fruit flies are among the world's most damaging insect pests. These fruit flies attack hundreds of different kinds of fruits and vegetables. The flies damage the fruit when the female fly lays her eggs under the skin of the fruit. These eggs hatch into larvae (maggots) which burrow into the fruit and feed, turning it into a rotten mass.



Adult Mediterranean Fruit Fly



Fruit Fly larvae on orange

Visit our website for more information on exotic pests!

acwm.lacounty.gov



TRAP TYPES

McPhail Trap

The glass McPhail trap is a general-purpose trap, capable of detecting targeted fruit flies, but principally Mexican fruit flies. This trap is baited with a mixture of water, yeast, and borax.



Jackson Trap

This white cardboard tent-shaped trap has a sticky glue insert that is hung in fruit trees and is used to find Mediterranean, Oriental, and Melon fruit flies. The bait is a pheromone (sex-attractant) in a cotton wick with a few drops of diluted insecticide to lure and stun the flies.



Gypsy Moth Trap

This triangular shaped trap is attached to tree trunks. It has a pheromone with the inside coated with glue. No pesticides are used in this trap.

