CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL NOTICE
FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF WILMINGTON, LOS ANGELES, LONG BEACH, AND CARSON IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

Between August 5, 2025, and September 08, 2025, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) confirmed that two oriental fruit flies (OFFs), *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel) group, were trapped in the neighborhood of Wilmington in the city of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County. Based on these detections, pest biology, information from the CDFA Bactrocera Science Advisory Panel (BacSAP), recommendations provided by the CDFA Primary State Entomologist, and the CDFA's "Action Plan for Methyl Eugenol Attracted Fruit Flies including Oriental Fruit Fly *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel)," the CDFA concludes that an infestation of OFF exists in the area. This pest presents a significant, clear, and imminent threat to the natural environment, agriculture, and economy of California. Unless emergency action is taken, there is high potential for sudden future detections in Los Angeles County.

In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the CDFA has evaluated possible eradication methods and determined that there are no cultural or biological methods available to eliminate OFF from this area. This Proclamation of Emergency Program is valid until May 27, 2026, which is the amount of time necessary to carry out the treatment plan across three life cycles of OFF as required by the treatment protocol for OFF. The CDFA will employ chemical control as the primary tool and will additionally use physical control via host fruit removal when there is evidence that a breeding population exists on a property.

The detections of OFF described above require immediate action to address the imminent threat to California's natural environment, agriculture, and economy. More specifically, in addition to a wide variety of commercial crops, OFF threatens loss and damage to native wildlife, private and public property, and food supplies. Because the life cycle of the OFF detected between August 5, 2025, and September 08, 2025, has not yet transpired, there is a high potential for sudden future detections in Los Angeles. Therefore, the Secretary is invoking Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) to carry out immediate emergency action to prevent the aforementioned loss and damage to California's resources.

The treatment plan for the OFF infestation will be implemented as follows:

- Organic Chemical Control: The male attractant technique (MAT) will be used to eliminate all sexually-mature male OFFs. MAT applies small bait stations using STATIC™ Spinosad ME, which is a pre-mixed solution containing the attractant methyl eugenol and an organically registered pesticide spinosad, mixed into a waxy time-release matrix (SPLAT®). The methyl eugenol lures male flies to the bait stations, where the flies ingest the insecticide as they feed. The flies are killed when they feed at the stations. In each square mile within the eradication boundary, a targeted density of 300 evenly spaced five- to ten-milliliter bait stations are applied to utility poles, street trees, and other unpainted surfaces using pressurized tree marking guns mounted on specially modified trucks. The bait stations are placed six to eight feet above the ground. The size of the eradication area is defined as that area within 1.5 miles of each detection site, and adjusted to create a nine-square-mile block marked by existing features, such as roads. Applications are repeated every two weeks for one life cycle if no quarantine is triggered (typically two to three months), and for two life cycles if a quarantine is triggered (typically four to six months). Life cycle durations are dependent on temperature.

- Chemical Control: If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected), foliar bait treatments may be used within 200 meters of each detection site in order to mitigate the spread of OFF by eliminating those adult life stages not directly affected by MAT (i.e., females and sexually immature males). Foliar bait ground treatments are a protein bait spray that contains an organic formulation of the pesticide spinosad (GF-120 NF Naturalyte® Fruit Fly Bait), and are repeated every seven to 14 days for one life cycle of the fly (typically two to three months, dependent on temperature). Please visit the CDFA website to learn more about the treatment process at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/videos/spinosad/.

- Physical Control: If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults), all host fruit from each detection site and all properties within a minimum of 100 meters of each detection site may be removed and disposed of in a landfill in accordance with regulatory protocols. Fruit removal will occur at the beginning of the project, but may be repeated if additional flies are detected.

Public Information:

For MAT applications in public areas, notification is given to the general public via mass media outlets such as state and county websites or press releases.

Residents whose property will be organically treated via foliar bait sprays or host fruit removal will be notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment, in accordance with the Food and Agricultural Code sections 5771-5779 and 5421-5436. Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to any fruit on the property.

Treatment information is posted at http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PDEP/treatment/oriental_ff.html. Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the project leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the OFF project shall be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

Enclosed are the findings regarding the treatment plan, work plan, map of the treatment area, integrated pest management analysis of alternative treatment methods, and a pest profile.

Attachments:

Findings
Treatment Area Map
Work Plan
IPM Analysis
Pest Profile

FINDINGS OF AN EMERGENCY FOR THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

Between August 5, 2025, and September 08, 2025, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) confirmed that two oriental fruit flies (OFFs), *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel) group, were trapped in the neighborhood of Wilmington in the city of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County. These detections indicate that a breeding population exists in the area. Unless emergency action is taken, then there is high potential for sudden future detections in Los Angeles County. The OFF is a devastating pest of a wide variety of important fruits, vegetables, and native plants.

In order to determine the extent of the infestation, and to define an appropriate response area, an additional survey took place, centered on the detection site. Based on the survey data, and findings and recommendations from the CDFA *Bactrocera* Science Advisory Panel (BacSAP), the Primary State Entomologist, the CDFA's "Action Plan for Methyl Eugenol Attracted Fruit Flies including Oriental Fruit Fly *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel)," and County Agricultural Commissioner representatives who are knowledgeable on OFF, I have determined that OFF poses a statewide imminent danger to the environment and economy.

The results of the additional survey also indicated that the local infestation is amenable to CDFA's OFF response strategies, which include chemical treatments and removal of host fruit. These options were selected based upon minimal impacts to the natural environment, biological effectiveness, minimal public intrusiveness, and cost.

The OFF is an invasive insect originating in Asia, and has been accidentally introduced into a number of Pacific Islands, including Hawaii. It is a member of a closely related group of species, known as the OFF group, which are difficult to distinguish based on individual specimens. Several of the group species are major fruit and vegetable pests, and collectively members of the OFF group are known to attack over 230 types of fruits and vegetables. Important California crops at risk include pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, and many vegetables, particularly tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs in the fruit. These eggs hatch into larvae, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption.

A life cycle is an estimate of insect phenology based on a heat degree day temperature driven model. Warmer temperatures lead to faster lifecycles, while colder temperatures slow lifecycle development. Daily minimum and maximum temperatures are collected from nearby regional data stations and used to calculate estimated temperature value curves. These temperature curves are used to project the length of fly lifecycles against established models specific to the OFF. Because the third (F3) life cycle of the OFF detected between August 5, 2025, and September 08, 2025, is not projected to be complete until May 27, 2026, it is likely that there are additional flies in the environment that will lead to sudden future detections.

This pest presents a significant and imminent threat to the natural environment, agriculture, and economy of California. Invasive fruit flies are internal feeders of fruit, and their presence therefore makes the fruit unfit for consumption. There is a loss of marketability and ability to ship food to other states and nations. The combined 2024 gross production value of host commercial commodities potentially affected by OFF was over $23.25 billion. The permanent establishment and spread of this pest would result in increased production and postharvest costs to safeguard commercial fruit from infestation, increased pesticide applications on both production agriculture and residential properties to mitigate damage and lost economic activity and jobs from trade restrictions imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and foreign trade partners.

This decision to proceed with treatment is based upon a realistic evaluation that it will be possible to eliminate OFF from this area and prevent its spread using currently available technology in a manner that is based on an action plan developed in consultation with the Pest Prevention Committee of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, the USDA, and scientists on the BacSAP. Due to the size of the infested area and the number of flies detected, historical data indicates that eradication is possible. The first California OFF detections occurred in Orange and Santa Barbara counties in 1960, and since that time, multiple re-introductions have been delimited and successfully eradicated.

The CDFA has evaluated possible treatment methods in accordance with integrated pest management (IPM) principles. As part of these principles, I have considered the following treatments for control of OFF: 1) physical controls; 2) cultural controls; 3) biological controls; and 4) chemical controls. Upon careful evaluation of each of these options, I have determined that it will be possible to address the imminent threat posed by OFF using currently available technology in a manner that is recommended by the BacSAP.

Based upon input from the BacSAP, the Primary State Entomologist, USDA experts on OFF, and County Agricultural Commissioner representatives who are knowledgeable on OFF, I find there are no cultural or biological control methods that are both effective against OFF and allow CDFA to meet its statutory obligations and therefore it is necessary to conduct physical and chemical control methods to abate this threat. As a result, I am ordering that male attractant treatments, consisting of methyl eugenol, a pesticide (spinosad), and a time-release matrix be applied to utility poles and street trees to eliminate this infestation. Additionally, in the event of evidence of a breeding population on a property, foliar bait spray treatments will be applied to host trees using ground-based equipment and host fruit removal will occur.

Sensitive Areas

CDFA has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife when rare and endangered species are located within the treatment area. Mitigation measures for rare and endangered species will be implemented. The CDFA shall not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatment shall be applied to residential properties, common areas within residential development, non-agricultural commercial properties, and rights-of-way.

Work Plan

The proposed treatment area encompasses those portions of Los Angeles County which fall within a 1.5-mile radius around each property on which an OFF has been detected and any subsequent detection sites within the program boundaries. The Proclamation of Emergency Program is valid until May 27, 2026, which is the amount of time necessary to carry out the treatment plan across three life cycles of OFF as required by the treatment protocol for OFF. A map of the project boundaries is attached. The work plan consists of the following elements:

1. Delimitation. Traps will be placed in a 4.5-mile radius from each detection site to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment OFF populations. The cardboard Jackson sticky trap is baited with the attractant methyl eugenol mixed with the pesticide naled (Dibrom® 8

Emulsive), and the McPhail trap is an invaginated glass flask baited with Torula yeast and borax in water. The Jackson trap is strongly attractive to sexually maturing males, while the McPhail trap is attractive to both sexes of the fly. Jackson traps and McPhail traps will each be placed at a density of 25 per square mile within a 0.5-mile radius of each detection site, and Jackson traps will be placed at a density of five per square mile in the remaining delimitation area going out to 4.5 miles from each detection site. Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to monitor the efficacy of treatments. These traps will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to three OFF generations beyond the date of the last OFF detected. In addition, host fruit may be sampled for the presence of eggs and larvae in a 200-meter radius around each detection property.

2. Treatment. Any OFF detections within the original and/or expanded eradication area(s) will be treated according to the following protocol.

   - The male attractant technique (MAT) will be used to eliminate all sexually-mature male OFFs. MAT applies small bait stations using STATIC™ Spinosad ME, which is a pre-mixed solution containing the attractant methyl eugenol and an organically registered pesticide spinosad, mixed into a waxy time-release matrix (SPLAT®). The methyl eugenol lures male flies to the bait stations, where the flies ingest the insecticide as they feed. The flies are killed when they feed at the stations. In each square mile within the eradication boundary, a targeted density of 300 evenly spaced five- to ten-milliliter bait stations are applied to utility poles, street trees, and other unpainted surfaces using pressurized tree marking guns mounted on specially modified trucks. The bait stations are placed six to eight feet above the ground. The size of the eradication area is defined as that area within 1.5 miles of each detection site, and adjusted to create a nine-square-mile block marked by existing features, such as roads. Applications are repeated every two weeks for one life cycle if no quarantine is triggered (typically two to three months), and for two life cycles if a quarantine is triggered (typically four to six months). Life cycle durations are dependent on temperature.

   - If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected), foliar bait treatments will be used within 200 meters of each detection site in order to mitigate the spread of OFF by eliminating those adult life stages not directly affected by MAT (i.e., females and sexually-immature males). The foliage of host trees and shrubs within 200 meters of each detection site will be treated with an organic formulation of spinosad bait spray (GF-120 NF Naturalyte® Fruit Fly Bait) using hand spray or hydraulic spray equipment. Treatments are repeated every seven to 14 days for one life cycle of the fly (typically two to three months, dependent on temperature).

   - If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected), all host fruit from each detection site and all properties within a minimum of 100 meters of each detection site may be removed and disposed of in a landfill in accordance with regulatory protocols. Fruit removal will occur at the beginning of the project, but may be repeated if additional flies are detected.

Public Information

For MAT applications in public areas, notification is given to the general public via mass media outlets such as state and county websites or press releases.

Residents whose property will be treated via foliar bait sprays or host fruit removal will be notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment, in accordance with the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) sections 5771-5779 and 5421-5436. Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to any fruit on the property.

Treatment information is posted at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/treatment/treatment_maps.html. Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the project leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the OFF project shall be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

Findings

Due to the detection of OFF, there exists a significant, clear, and imminent threat to California's natural environment, agriculture, public and private property, and its economy.

Unless emergency action is taken during the life cycles of recently detected OFFs, there is high potential for sudden future detections in Los Angeles County.

The work plan involving physical and chemical control of this pest is necessary to prevent loss and damage to California's natural environment, fruit and vegetable industry, native wildlife, private and public property, and food supplies.

Therefore, I am invoking Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) to carry out immediate emergency action to prevent this loss and damage.

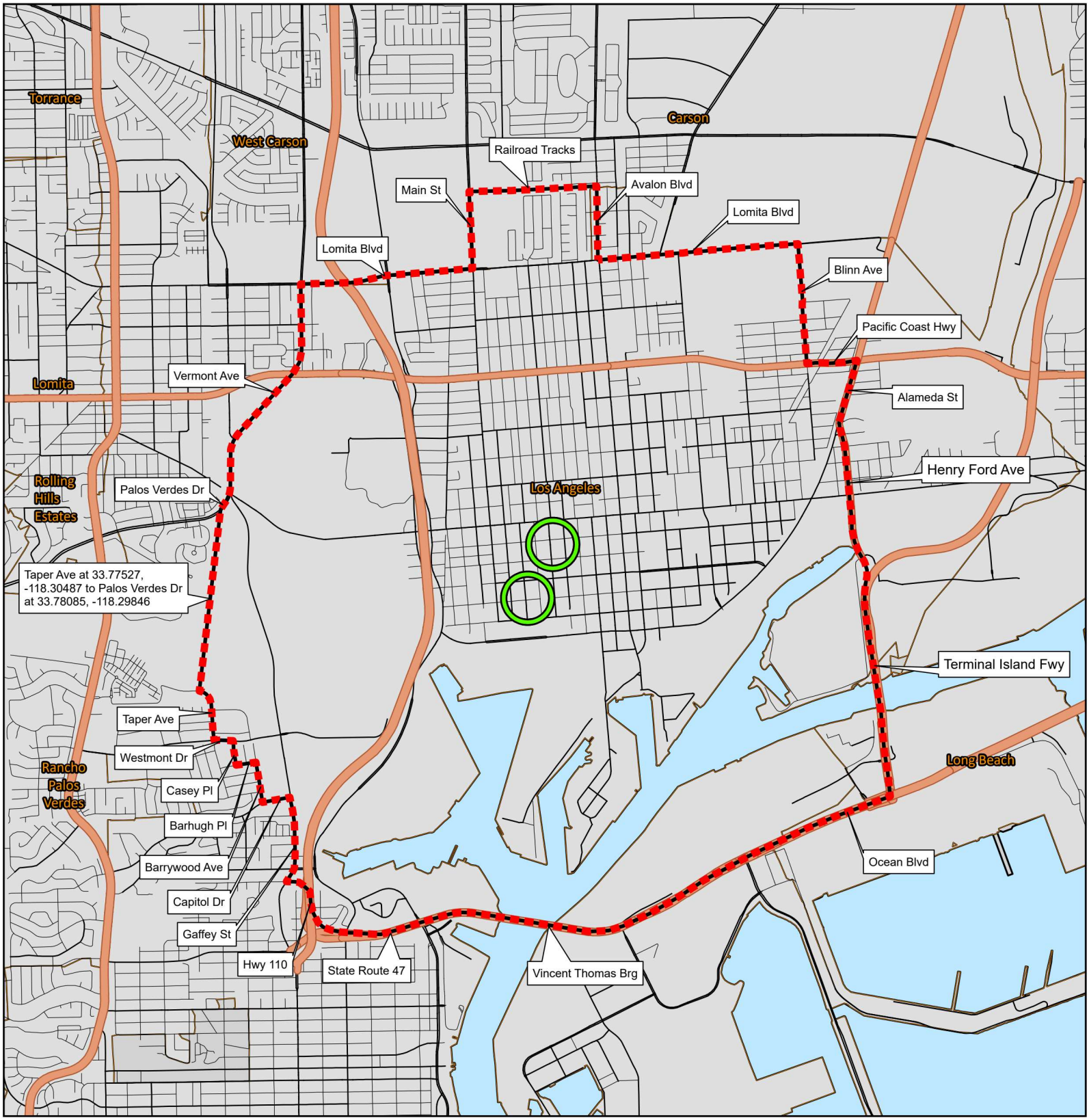
My decision to adopt findings and take action is based on Sections 24.5, 401, 401.5, 403, 407, 408, 5401-5405, and 5761-5764 of the Food and Agricultural Code, and title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 5388.

Karen Ross Digitally signed by Karen Ross
Date: 2025.09.12 11:12:06 -07'00'

Karen Ross, Secretary

Date

Oriental Fruit Fly Eradication Project
Wilmington, Carson, Long Beach, and Los Angeles - Los Angeles County
2025



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MAT Treatment Boundary

200m Foliar Treatment Area

Sensitive Environmental Area/Treatment Mitigation In Place

N W E S

ERADICATION PROJECT WORK PLAN FOR
METHYL EUGENOL RESPONDING INVASIVE FRUIT FLIES (MERIFF)
(Includes *Bactrocera correcta*, *Bactrocera dorsalis group*, *Bactrocera zonata, and other Bactrocera spp.*)
Updated July 2025

DETECTION

1. Detection Trapping

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) maintains a cooperative State/County trapping program for the various fruit flies to provide early detection of any infestation in the State. Traps are serviced by either County or State personnel and funded by the Department. The program uses two types of traps: the cardboard Jackson sticky trap baited with the attractant methyl eugenol mixed with the pesticide naled (Dibrom® 8 Emulsive), and the McPhail trap, an invaginated glass flask baited with Torula yeast and borax in water. The Jackson trap is strongly attractive to sexually maturing males, while the McPhail trap is attractive to both sexes of the fly. Traps are hung from branches of host trees at specified densities in susceptible areas of California. County or State employees inspect these traps weekly or bi-weekly throughout the year in southern California and from April or May through October or November in northern California.

2. Intensive Trapping

Intensive trapping is triggered after a single fly is caught. Following confirmation of the specimen, trap densities will be increased over an 81-square mile area centered on the detection. Within the next 24 hours, 25 Jackson and McPhail traps are placed in the square mile core around each find. Five Jackson traps are placed in each mile of the remaining delimitation area. Traps in the core will be checked daily during the first week. Traps in the first buffer zone will be serviced every two days; those in the remainder of the delimitation area are checked at least once during the first week. All traps in the delimitation zone will be checked weekly following a week of negative trap catches. Intensive trapping ends after the third complete life cycle following the last fly find. This time period is determined by a temperature-dependent developmental model run by the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects Branch in Sacramento.

3. Post-Treatment Monitoring

The success of the eradication program is monitored by intensive trapping levels for three life cycles of the fly after the last fly has been detected. If no flies are caught during that time, trap densities return to detection levels.

4. Larval Survey

Fruit on a property where a fly has been trapped may be inspected for possible larval infestation. Small circular oviposition scars are occasionally visible indicating an infested fruit. Fruit on properties adjacent to a trap catch may also be inspected. If two or more flies are trapped close to each other, fruit cutting may be extended to all properties within a 200-meter radius of the finds, concentrating on preferred hosts.

TREATMENT

1. Male Attractant Technique

The male attractant technique (MAT) will be used to eliminate all sexually-mature male MERIFFs. MAT applies small bait stations using STATIC™ Spinosad ME, which is a pre-mixed solution containing the attractant methyl eugenol and an organically registered pesticide spinosad, mixed into a waxy time-release matrix (SPLAT®). The methyl eugenol lures male flies to the bait stations, where the flies ingest the insecticide as they feed. The flies are killed when they feed at the stations. In each square mile within the eradication boundary evenly spaced five- to ten-milliliter bait stations are applied to utility poles, street trees, and other unpainted surfaces using pressurized tree marking guns mounted on specially modified trucks. The bait stations are placed at a targeted density of 300 bait stations in each square mile for Oriental Fruit Fly and 600 bait stations in each square mile for all other MERIFFs including Guava and Peach Fruit Fly. The bait stations are applied six to eight feet above the ground. The size of the eradication area is defined as that area within 1.5 miles of each detection site, squared off to create a nine-square mile block, and adjusted to use existing features as boundaries, such as roads. Applications are repeated every two weeks for one life cycle if no quarantine is triggered (typically two to three months), and for two life cycles if a quarantine is triggered (typically four to six months). Life cycle durations are dependent on temperature.

2. Foliar Sprays

If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected), the foliage of host trees and shrubs within 200 meters of each detection site will be treated with an organic formulation of spinosad bait spray (GF-120 NF Naturalyte® Fruit Fly Bait) using hand spray or hydraulic spray equipment. Following treatment, completion notices are left with the homeowners detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to any fruit on the property. Treatments are repeated at seven to 14 day intervals for one life cycle of the fly (typically two to three months, dependent on temperature).

3. Host Fruit Removal

If evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected), host removal (fruit stripping) may be used in conjunction with the other treatment options. All host fruit will be removed from all properties within a minimum of a 100-meter radius around the detection sites. The fruit is taken to a landfill for burial using regulatory compliance protocols. Fruit removal will occur once at the beginning of the project, but may be repeated if additional flies are detected.

SENSITIVE AREAS

The CDFA has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife when rare and endangered species are located within the treatment area. Mitigation measures for rare and endangered species will be implemented. The CDFA will not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatment will be applied to

residential properties, common areas within residential development, non-agricultural commercial properties, and rights-of-way.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

For MAT applications, notification is given to the general public via mass media outlets such as newspapers or press releases. Residents of properties affected by foliar bait sprays or host fruit removal shall be notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment, in accordance with the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) sections 5771-5779 and 5421-5436.

For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices. Treatment information is posted at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/treatment/.

After foliar bait treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to any fruit and vegetables on the property.

Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the program leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the MERIFF program shall be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT METHODS TO ERADICATE METHYL EUGENOL RESPONDING INVASIVE FRUIT FLIES
Updated July 2025

The treatment program used by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for control of methyl eugenol responding invasive fruit flies (MERIFFs) employs an area-wide chemical treatment called male attractant technique, complemented with a targeted foliar bait spray treatment using an organic pesticide and with fruit removal, as needed.

Below is an evaluation of alternatives treatment methods for MERIFFs which have been considered for eradication programs in California. These flies include, but are not limited to, the oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) (OFF) and its sibling species (collectively referred to as *Bactrocera dorsalis* group) (OFF group), guava fruit fly (*Bactrocera correcta*) (GFF), and peach fruit fly (*Bactrocera zonata*) (PFF).

A. PHYSICAL CONTROL

Mass Trapping: This method involves placing a high density of traps in an area in an attempt to physically remove the adults before they can reproduce. For MERIFFs, trapping is considerably enhanced when an insecticide is added to the lure to help capture adults. Mass trapping with lure only and without an insecticide, would capture some adult OFF, but would not eradicate an infestation.

Active Fly Removal: Adult flies are mobile daytime fliers, and adults could theoretically be netted or collected off of foliage. However, due to their ability to fly when disturbed, and the laborious and time prohibitive task of collecting flying insects from several properties by hand, it would be highly improbable that all of the adults could be captured and removed. Larvae live inside the fruit, so all potentially infested fruit in the entirety of the eradication area would have to be removed and disposed of in order to eliminate the larvae from the environment. For these reasons, active fly removal is not considered to be an effective alternative.

Fruit Bagging: Fruit bagging involves individually enclosing each developing fruit in a bag which prevents fruit flies from laying eggs. In order to be effective, frequent monitoring of the bagged fruit is needed to identify and repair damage to the bags before female flies can enter and lay eggs. Fruit bagging is considered an economically inefficient option for area-wide treatment because it is so labor intensive. It is also intrusive to residents, who may oppose having their home grown produce confined inside bags. Additionally, this method may possibly promote the dispersal of female flies in search of egg laying sites, thus spreading the infestation if other treatments are not used outside the fruit bagging area. For these reasons, fruit bagging is not considered to be an effective alternative.

Host Fruit Removal: Removal of host fruits involves the physical removal of all suitable fruit from both the host plant and from the surrounding ground, in order to eliminate developing eggs and larvae. The fruit is collected and double-bagged before being buried in a landfill. California's MERIFF program performs host fruit removal within a 100-meter radius of detection sites which are indicative of an active breeding area, such as those with immature stages, a mated female, or multiple adults, as an added measure to reduce populations within that area and to prevent spread of adult life stages which are not targeted under the preferred area-wide treatment of male attractant technique, such as sexually immature males and females. Fruit removal is not considered an economically efficient option for area-wide treatment because it is so labor intensive. It is also intrusive to residents, who may oppose losing their home grown produce.

Additionally, this method may possibly promote the dispersal of female flies in search of egg laying sites, thus spreading the infestation if other treatments are not used outside the fruit removal area. Fruit removal can be feasible and effective when used in targeted areas in combination with one or more of the other treatments discussed.

Host Plant Removal: Removal of host plants involves the large-scale destruction of plants by either physical removal or phytotoxic herbicides. Host plant removal is not considered an economically efficient option for area-wide treatment because it is so labor intensive. It is intrusive to residents, who may oppose losing their plants. Additionally, this method may possibly promote the dispersal of female flies in search of egg laying sites, thus spreading the infestation if other treatments are not used outside the host plant removal area. Finally, because only the fruit is subject to infestation, removing entire plants during a temporary eradication project is excessive, unduly intrusive, and wastefully inefficient.

B. CULTURAL CONTROL

Cultural Control: Cultural controls involve the manipulation of cultivation practices to reduce the prevalence of pest populations. These include crop rotation, early harvest (i.e., harvesting green fruit before it is suitable for oviposition), using pest-resistant varieties, and intercropping with pest-repellent plants. None of these options are applicable for MERIFF eradications in an urban environment with multiple hosts, and may only serve to drive the flies outside the treatment area, thus spreading the infestation.

C. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Microorganisms: No single-celled microorganisms, such as bacteria, have been shown to be effective at controlling MERIFFs.

Nematodes: No nematodes have been shown to be effective at controlling MERIFFs.

Parasites and Predators: Parasites and predators are not considered an effective stand-alone eradication method because their success is density dependent; they are more effective against dense prey populations than against light populations, so their effectiveness decreases as the prey populations decline. Although several organisms, such as parasitic wasps, have been investigated as potential biological control agents against invasive fruit fly species, they have only been used in suppression programs and not in eradication programs. Since there is insufficient research documenting their efficacy in an eradication program, using these organisms would likely lead to the ineffectiveness of the program.

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT): SIT is currently used to suppress OFF and GFF populations in mango orchards in Thailand, and research is ongoing for use against OFF in Hawaii and against a member of the OFF complex, *Bactrocera philippinensis*, in the Philippines. However, there are no production-level colonies of these species outside of Thailand, and these facilities and research colonies are too small and too far away to support an active eradication effort in California. In addition, for introduced populations of the OFF complex, there is uncertainty as to which species has actually invaded, and therefore SIT using the wrong species could lead to ineffectiveness of the program.

D. CHEMICAL CONTROL

Male Attractant Technique: The use of male attractant technique (MAT) in California can be traced back to the 1960's. MAT applies small bait stations using STATIC™ Spinosad ME, which is a pre-mixed solution containing the attractant methyl eugenol and an organically registered pesticide spinosad, mixed into a waxy time-release matrix (SPLAT®). The methyl eugenol lures male flies to the bait stations, where the flies ingest the insecticide as they feed. Sexually maturing males are strongly attracted to methyl eugenol because it is needed for proper production of their sex pheromone. The male flies responding to the methyl eugenol die from the pesticide when they feed at the stations. In each square mile within the eradication boundary, a targeted density of 300 bait stations in each square mile are applied for Oriental Fruit Fly and 600 bait stations in each square mile are applied for all other MERIFFs including Guava and Peach Fruit Fly. The five milliliter bait stations are evenly spaced and applied to utility poles, street trees, and other unpainted surfaces using pressurized tree marking guns mounted on specially modified trucks. The bait stations are placed six to eight feet above the ground. The size of the eradication area is defined as that area within 1.5 miles of each detection site, and squared off to create a nine square mile block, and adjusted to use existing features as boundaries, such as roads. Applications are repeated every two weeks for one life cycle if no quarantine is triggered (typically two to three months), and for two life cycles if a quarantine is triggered (typically four to six months). Life cycle durations are dependent on temperature.

Foliar Bait Treatment: Foliar bait treatments use an insecticide mixed with a food attractant in order to kill adults, particularly females. The bait makes the treatment selective for particular flies, and therefore biological control agents for other pests are not affected. The CDFA uses this treatment if evidence that a breeding population exists on a property (i.e., immature stages, mated female, or multiple adults are detected). The goal is to decrease the population density and to target adult life stages which are not susceptible to MAT (e.g., mated females, sexually immature males) in order to contain the population while MAT drives the population to extinction. The foliage of host trees and shrubs within 200 meters of each detection site is treated with an organic formulation of spinosad bait spray (GF-120 NF Naturalyte® Fruit Fly Bait) using hand spray or hydraulic spray equipment. This treatment is repeated at seven to 14 day intervals for one life cycle beyond the last fly detected. While effective in the area treated, this type of treatment is considered economically inefficient to apply in a biologically relevant timeframe over the entirety of the eradication area, so it is used as a complimentary treatment to MAT rather than a standalone treatment.

Foliar Cover Spray Treatment: Foliar cover spray treatments use a contact insecticide in order to kill adults. This treatment is non-selective and will affect any insects which come into contact with it, including biological control agents for other pests. In order to sufficiently cover an area, much more pesticide must be applied per area than with foliar bait sprays. For these reasons, cover sprays are not used for this program.

Soil Treatment: Contact insecticides drenched into the soil have been used against MERIFFs in the past. The goal is to directly kill larvae entering the soil to pupate, pupae in the soil, and adults emerging from pupae by drenching the soil surrounding host plants. The insecticide previously used for this purpose contains the organophosphate insecticide diazinon. However, this treatment has not been used since 2001 in California because of its environmental toxicity, difficulty in removing all ground clutter and debris, and a potential lack of effectiveness in the varied soil types found in urban environments.

PEST PROFILE

Common Name: Oriental Fruit Fly

Scientific Name: *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel)

Order and Family: Diptera, Tephritidae

Description: The adult oriental fruit fly (OFF) is somewhat larger than a housefly, about eight millimeters in length. The top of the thorax is mostly black with yellow patches, the abdomen is yellow-orange with a dark T-shaped mark, and the face has two black spots. The wings are clear with a dark line along the front edge. The female has a pointed slender ovipositor to deposit eggs under the skin of host fruit. The egg is minute, white, cylindrical, rounded at the ends and about six times as long as wide. The larva is creamy-white, legless, and may attain a length of ten millimeters. The pupa is encased in a dark brown cylindrical puparium.

History and Economic Importance: The OFF is an exotic insect originating in Asia, and has been accidentally introduced into a number of Pacific Islands, including Hawaii. It is a member of a closely related group of species, known as the OFF complex, which are difficult to distinguish based on individual specimens. Several of the complex species are major fruit and vegetable pests, and collectively members of the OFF complex are known to attack over 230 types of fruits and vegetables. Important California crops at risk include pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, and many row crops, particularly tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs in the fruit. These eggs hatch into larvae, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. The first California detections occurred in Orange and Santa Barbara counties in 1960, and since that time, numerous re-introductions have been delimited and successfully eradicated.

Distribution: OFF is widespread through much of the mainland of southern Asia and neighboring islands, including Sri Lanka and Taiwan. Distribution in the United States is restricted to the Hawaiian Islands.

Life Cycle: Females lay eggs in groups of three to 30 under the skin of host fruits, and a single female can lay more than 1,000 eggs in her lifetime. The amount of time it takes for egg development depends on the ambient temperature. Larvae tunnel through the fruit feeding on the pulp, shed their skins twice, and emerge through exit holes in approximately ten days. The larvae drop from the fruit and burrow two to three centimeters into the soil to pupate. In ten to twelve days, adults emerge from these puparia. The newly emerged adult females need eight totwelve days to mature sexually prior to egg-laying. Breeding is continuous, with several annual generations. Adults live an average of 90 days, feeding on honeydew, decaying fruit, plant nectar, bird dung, and other sources of protein. The adult is a strong flyer, recorded to travel 30 miles in search of food and egg laying sites. This ability to fly long distances allows the fly to infest new areas very quickly.

Hosts and Damage: In excess of 230 fruits and vegetables have been reported as hosts of members of the OFF complex (see Partial Host List below). Fruit that has been attacked may be unfit for consumption due to the larvae tunneling through the flesh as they feed. Decay-producing organisms then enter, leaving the interior of the fruit a rotten mass.

Partial Host List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Akia	*Wikstroemia phyllyraefolia*
Alexander laurel	*Calophyllum inophyllum*
Apple	*Malus sylvestris*
Apricot	*Prunus armeniaca*
Avocado	*Persea americana*
Banana	*Musa x paradisiaca*
Banana, dwarf	*Musa nana*
Barbados cherry	*Malpighia glabra*
Bell pepper	*Capsicum frutescens grossum*
Brazil cherry	*Eugenia dombeyi*
Breadfruit	*Artocarpus altilis*
Caimitillo	*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*
Cashew	*Anacardium occidentale*
Cactus	*Cereus coerulescens*
Cherimoya	*Anonna cherimola*
Cherry, Catalina	*Prunus ilicifolia*
Cherry, Portuguese	*Prunus lusitanica*
Cherry, sweet	*Prunus avium*
Chili	*Capsicum frutescens* var*. longum*
Coffee, Arabian	*Coffea arabica*
Country gooseberry	*Averrhoa carambola*
Cucumber	*Cucumis sativas*
Custard apple	*Annona reticulata*
Date palm	*Phoenix dactylifera*
Dragon tree	*Dracaena draco*
Eggfruit tree	*Outeria campechiana*
Elengi tree	*Mimusops elengi*
Fig	*Ficus carica*
Gourka	*Garcinia celebica*
Granadilla, sweet	*Passiflora ligularis*
Granadilla, yellow	*Passiflora lauriflora*
Grape	*Vitis* spp*.*
Grapefruit	*Citrus paradisi*
Guava	*Psidium guajava* *Psidium. littorale* *Psidium. cattleianum*
Imbu	*Spondias tuberosa*
Jackfruit	*Artocarpus heterophyllus*
Jerusalem cherry	*Solanum pseudocapsicum*
Kitembilla	*Dovyalis hebecarpa*
Kumquat	*Fortunella japonica*
Tamanu	*Calophyllum inophyllum*
Lemon	*Citrus limon*
Lime	*Citrus aurantiifolia*
Longan	*Euphoria longan*
Loquat	*Eriobotrya japonica*
Lychee nut	*Lychee chinensis*
Malay apple	*Eugenia malaccensis*
Mammee apple	*Mammea americana*
Mandarin orange (tangerine)	*Citrus reticulata*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mango	*Mangifera indica*
Mangosteen	*Garcinia mangostana*
Mock orange	*Murraya exotica*
Black Mulberry	*Morus nigra*
Myrtle, downy rose	*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*
Natal plum	*Carissa grandiflora*
Nectarine	*Prunus persica* var. *nectarina*
Oleander, yellow	*Thevetia peruviana*
Orange, calamondin	*Citrus mitis and C. japonica*
Orange, Chinese	*Citrus japonica hazara*
Orange, king	*Citrus nobilis*
Orange, sweet	*Citrus sinensis*
Orange, Unshu	*Citrus unshu*
Oriental bush red pepper	*Capsicum frutescens abbreviatum*
Otaheite apple	*Spondias dulcis*
Palm, syrup	*Jubaea spectabilis*
Papaya	*Carica papaya*
Passionflower	*Passiflora edulis*
Passionflower, softleaf	*Passiflora mollissima*
Passionfruit (yellow lilikoi)	*Passiflora edulis flavicarpa*
Peach	*Prunus persica*
Pear	*Pyrus communis*
Pepino	*Solanum muricatum*
Pepper, sweet	*Capsicum frutescens* var. *grossum*
Persimmon, Japanese	*Diospyros kaki*
Pineapple guava	*Feijoa sellowiana*
Plum	*Prunus americana*
Pomegranate	*Punica granatum*
Prickly pear	*Opuntia megacantha*
Prune	*Prunus domestica*
Pummelo	*Citrus maxima*
Quince	*Cydonia oblonga*
Rose apple	*Eugenia jambos*
Sandalwood	*Santalum paniculatum*
Sandalwood, white	*Santalum album*
Santol	*Sandericum koetjape*
Sapodilla	*Manilkara zapota*
Sapodilla, chiku	*Achras zapota*
Sapota, white	*Casimiroa edulis*
Seagrape	*Coccoloba uvifera*
Sour orange	*Citrus aurantium*
Soursop	*Annona muricata*
Star apple	*Chrysophyllum cainito*
Surinam cherry	*Eugenia uniflora*
Tomato	*Solanum lycopersicum*
Tropical almond	*Terminalia catappa*
	Terminalia chebula
Velvet apple	*Diospyros discolor*
Walnut, Hinds	*Juglans hindsii*
Walnut, English	*Juglans regia*
Wampi	*Citrus lansium*
West Indian cherry	*Malpighia punicifolia*
Ylang-ylang	*Canaga odorata*