



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
www.TexasAgriculture.gov

LET'S RID TEXAS CITRUS OF FRUIT FLIES!

YOU CAN HELP WIPE OUT FRUIT FLIES IN TEXAS! Just by removing and disposing of unwanted or infested fruit on or around your citrus trees, you can help destroy Mexican fruit fly before they re-establish themselves as a major pest in Texas citrus! It's easy, benefits all citrus growers and (if you're in a quarantined area) it's the law!

REQUIRED SANITATION PROCEDURES :

IF YOU HAVE COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS LANDSCAPE OR ABANDONED CITRUS TREES OR OTHER HOSTS IN A QUARANTINED INFESTED AREA, you must perform the *Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) required sanitation procedures:*

- 1) When fruit is present, at least once every 21 days check on and around your trees to prevent accumulation of fruit that is fallen, decomposing, culled, or not to be harvested, and immediately dispose of such fruit.
- 2) During the harvest period (September 1 - June 30) at least once every 7 days, remove and immediately dispose of fallen, refuse, or cull fruit.
- 3) Not just citrus; others of the 40+ affected hosts include stone fruits, avocados, mangoes, and apples.
- 4) Proper disposal of fruit that is fallen, decomposing, culled, or not to be harvested, can be either:
 - a) **Bury** the fruit at least 18 inches below the surface of well-tamped soil; *or*
 - b) **Enclose** the fruit in plastic garbage bags for removal to a sanitary landfill; *or*
 - c) **Dispose** of the fruit in some other way approved by TDA (phone TDA's Valley Regional Office at 956-787-8866).

ADDITIONALLY:

FRUIT ON TREES NEAR AN INFESTED LOCATION must be stripped from the tree and disposed of as described above. You will be contacted by USDA or TDA if this is necessary.

PROPERTIES IN QUARANTINED AREAS THAT VIOLATE THE SANITATION REQUIREMENTS may be subject to penalties and/or criminal prosecution. TDA is authorized to seize and treat or destroy, or order to be treated or destroyed, fallen, decomposing, culled, or not to be harvested fruit. Costs will be chargeable to the owner, part owner, or caretaker.

WHERE ARE THE QUARANTINED AREAS:

AN INTERACTIVE ONLINE TDA MAP <http://tinyurl.com/husx426> lets you enter an address to see if your home, grove or abandoned citrus trees are inside a quarantined area. For more information, phone TDA's Valley Regional Office at 956-787-8866.

BACKGROUND:

SINCE 1981, TDA has collaborated with the USDA and the Texas citrus industry in conducting a Mexican fruit fly program to eliminate the risk of this pest to Texas and other citrus-producing states. Through this program, in January 2012, the Mexican fruit fly was declared eradicated from Texas. Unfortunately a continuing threat of cross-border re-infestation from northern Mexico remains.

The Mexican fruit fly program continues to monitor fly populations, apply bait spray treatments, release sterile flies, and quarantine incipient infestations in collaboration with USDA, so Texas can continue to export citrus to other states and countries during much of the year without fumigation requirements.