

The medfly does not occur in our countries, but trapping with Dome McPhail traps will catch as well the local species as invasive species. Other detection options are for example fruit collection and rearing the larvae to adults, or the use of Jackson traps with trimedlure.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Establishment of medfly in a country will cause dramatic economic effects, due to infestation of produce, therefore loss of these products and loss of export potential as non-infested countries would refuse to buy the produce. For Florida, for example, this would cause losses of billions of dollars.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **Do NOT** bring into your country any fruit or agricultural produce without the required Plant Quarantine Import Permits/Approval
- **NEVER** bring fruits from countries that have fruit flies that do not exist in your country.
- When you travel always Declare **ALL** agricultural items.
- Report any infested (pierced or larvae present) fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture
- If you see fruit with larvae that are jumping, report it **immediately**.
- If this pest is found early, eradication is still possible.



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PRIORITY PEST THREATS TO THE REGION MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLIES



The Mediterranean fruit fly is better known as medfly. It is a species that has been introduced in many countries all over the world. It is considered a major pest, due to its ability to attack many hosts. In countries where it has become established it has caused significant economic loss to the agricultural sector.

PROTECT

Safeguard our agriculture & environment do NOT bring in undeclared fruit.

DETECT

Monitor for Signs & Symptoms of Mediterranean fruit fly.

REACT

Report any suspect fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture and follow ALL recommendations for Control or Eradication

MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLIES

Ceratitis capitata Wiedemann



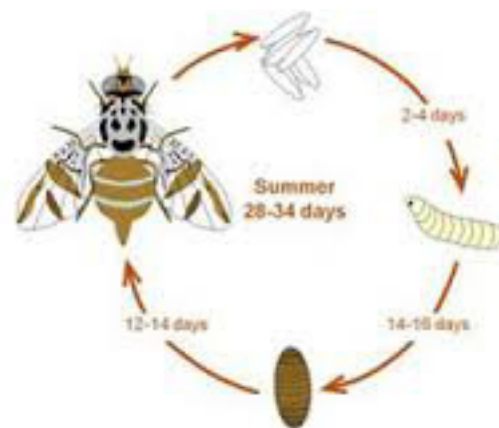
LIFE CYCLE

The medfly has over 350 different hosts, belonging to more than 67 plant families.

Major hosts are (fruits important for Caribbean are mentioned): cashew, mango, cherimoya, tropical almond, guava, coffee, citrus species, akee, starapple, pepper and tomato.

The adult female lays eggs just under the skin of the fruits. The eggs hatch after 2-3 days, and the larvae feed on the fruit pulp. After 6-10 days, when the fruit matures and falls on the ground, the larvae pupate in the soil, and emergence of the adults happens approximately 6-13 days later. The adult flies become fully mature in a few days, before they start laying eggs, which makes the total life cycle around a month, variations occur with temperature and host type.

LIFECYCLE



Mature med fly larvae have the ability, like the Carambola fruit fly, to 'jump'; if they are placed on a dry surface, they curl up and jump up to 25 millimeters. This simplifies detecting invasive species, since the local Anastrepha larvae do not have this feature.

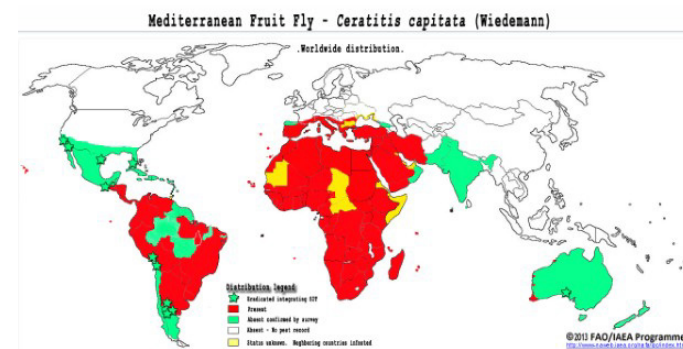
SYMPTOMS AND INFESTATION



Infestations of fruit flies on fruits usually can be found as the dark dots, caused by egg-laying. On some fruits symptoms are very clear, as in West Indian cherry, other fruits show less to no symptoms of infestation.

DISTRIBUTION

The med fly originates in the Mediterranean area, but it has spread over many continents. It is present in Africa, Southern Europe, Australia, South-America, Central -America and Hawaii. In some countries (Chili, Mexico) it has been eradicated. In others, it is under control.



CONTROL

Small area control involves destroying the infested fruits by burying, submerging in water, collecting in plastic bags and exposing to the sun, all resulting in death of the larvae. Feeding infested fruits to poultry is also a good option.