

ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY DETECTED WITHIN CITY OF SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO, August 24, 2018 - The Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, is beginning an extensive survey in response to the detection of eleven Oriental fruit flies (OFF) within the City of Sacramento in Sacramento County.

The detections were confirmed on July 30, Aug. 17, 21, and 23, 2018. The detections were made as part of a coordinated pest prevention system that protects agricultural and natural resources from invasive species. Early detection is a key component to successfully eradicate an infestation before it can become established.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture will soon establish a quarantine for all host plants and fruits within a 4.5-mile radius of the finds, to prevent further spread of the pest. The forthcoming restrictions on movement of host plants and fruits will apply to the homeowner, renter, commercial grower and nursery alike.

The Oriental fruit fly is known to target over 230 different fruit, vegetable, and plant commodities. Damage occurs when the female fruit fly lays her eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots and tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption.

While fruit flies and other invasive species that threaten California's crops and natural environment are sometimes detected in agricultural areas, the vast majority are found in urban and suburban communities. The most common pathway for these pests to enter the state is by "hitchhiking" in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers when they return from infested regions of the world. Help protect California's agricultural and natural resources; please Don't Pack a Pest (www.dontpackapest.com) when traveling or mailing packages.

The Oriental fruit fly is widespread throughout much of the mainland of Southern Asia and neighboring islands, including Sri Lanka and Taiwan, and it has invaded other areas, most notably Africa and Hawaii.

Residents with questions about the project may call the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's office at 916-875-6603. Additional information may be found here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/off/>