



# News Release

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## NEW MEXICAN FRUIT FLY FINDS EXPAND QUARANTINE IN LAREDO, TEXAS

*Laredo, TX – July 19, 2016* – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Laredo Mexican Fruit Fly Project has detected an additional adult Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) in Laredo, Texas. This detection requires the establishment of a delimiting area and the subsequent expansion of the quarantine zone. The find was in the Del Mar section of Laredo, near the northeast corner of the existing quarantine area.

The USDA Laredo Mexican Fruit Fly Project will be surveying in nearby residential areas. The surveys involve fruit stripping, treatment of the trees, placing traps and daily trap monitoring. The treatment is not harmful to people or pets. We ask the public to please cooperate with the survey teams so that we can stop the spread of this destructive pest.

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, the USDA started a sterile Mexican Fruit Fly aerial release program over the quarantine areas. Over 4 million flies were released by aircraft over Laredo, Zapata and San Ygnacio, Texas. The releases will take place weekly. The sterile flies will mate with wild flies producing no new flies. The sterile flies are not dangerous to humans or animals and are critical for the successful eradication of the Mexican Fruit Fly in Texas.

Mexican Fruit Fly is an invasive pest not known to occur in the United States and is one of the world's most destructive attacking more than 40 different kinds of fruits and vegetables. Mexican Fruit fly is a threat to Texas agriculture. This pest poses no threat to humans or animals.

For more information on damaged traps, a high concentration of flies, or survey questions, please contact the USDA Laredo Mexican Fruit Fly Project at (956)726-2225.

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