

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2025-05

February 14, 2025

Subject: APHIS Provides an Additional Methyl Bromide Fumigation Treatment Option for Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*) Quarantined Areas in Texas

To: State, Territory, and Tribal Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is modifying conditions for the movement of fresh citrus fruit from the Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, or Mexfly) quarantined areas within the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) in Texas.

Currently, growers who intend to move citrus from the core areas of the LRGV Mexfly quarantined areas can process the fruit for juice or complete one of four post-harvest treatments: chamber methyl bromide fumigation, high temperature forced air, cold treatment, or irradiation; see the domestic schedules of the [APHIS Treatment Manual](#) retained in its Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database. Growers located within a quarantined area but outside the infested core area may either apply malathion or spinosad bait spray as a pre-harvest treatment or complete one of the four aforementioned post-harvest treatments. However, some citrus producers in the LRGV Mexfly quarantined areas have indicated that the current post-harvest options are either not feasible or economically viable. This Federal Order provides relief to them by providing an additional post-harvest treatment option.

This option is a modified approach, which uses a tarpaulin (tarp) methyl bromide treatment equivalent to the existing approved chamber methyl bromide fumigation option ([T101-j-2-1](#)). This option applies only to fresh citrus fruit originating from quarantined areas and core areas of Mexfly quarantines in the LRGV, where the fruit is to undergo an APHIS-approved post-harvest treatment. Growers may not use this approach for the international export of fresh citrus fruit from these areas unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly-quarantined areas.

APHIS regulates the interstate movement of Mexfly regulated articles from all Mexfly-quarantined areas in the United States in accordance with [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.32 et seq.](#) and any applicable provisions of all associated Federal Orders. APHIS posts current Mexfly-quarantined areas and the Mexfly host list (regulated articles) on the [APHIS Exotic Fruit Flies webpage](#). APHIS will add the new treatment option (D301.32-10(b-4)) to the domestic schedules of the APHIS Treatment Manual. APHIS will then publish a Notice in the Federal Register.

For additional information about the Mexfly quarantine program, you may contact the Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Programs National Policy Manager, Catherine Marzolf, at catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov or 386-666-9932.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark L. Davidson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Davidson" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Federal Order

**APHIS Provides an Additional Methyl Bromide Fumigation Treatment Option for
Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*)
Quarantined Areas in Texas**

**DA-2025-05
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Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is providing an additional methyl bromide fumigation treatment option to enable the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) Mexican fruit fly (*Anastrepha ludens*, or Mexfly) quarantined areas in Texas. The option included in this Federal Order is a modified approach, which uses a tarpaulin (tarp) container methyl bromide fumigation treatment option equivalent to the existing approved chamber methyl bromide fumigation ([T101-j-2-1](#)), applying the same effective level of methyl bromide to citrus fruit with a pulp temperature of 80°F. This approach allows growers an additional option for meeting movement requirements applicable to the Mexfly quarantine core areas where commercially produced fruit is only allowed to be moved with an approved post-harvest treatment. A core area is defined in [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.32-1](#) as the area within a circle surrounding each site where fruit flies have been detected using a ½-mile radius with the detection site as a center point. This approach will also be available to growers located within a quarantined area, but outside an infested core area that elect to apply an approved post-harvest treatment as an alternative to a pre-harvest treatment as described in [7 C.F.R. § 301.32-10\(b\)](#).

While this Federal Order permits domestic movement of treated fresh citrus fruit from this area, it does not permit international export of fresh citrus fruit from this area unless the fresh citrus fruit meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly-quarantined areas.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the domestic fruit fly regulations implemented under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 CFR § 301.32 et seq.](#) APHIS will follow this action by adding the new treatment option (D301.32-10(b-4)) to the domestic schedules of the [APHIS Treatment Manual](#) retained in its Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database. APHIS will then publish a Notice in the Federal Register.

The [APHIS Fruit Fly Quarantine Maps and Descriptions webpage](#) provides up-to-date information of the Mexfly-quarantined areas in Texas.

Federal fruit fly regulations do not allow for the movement of regulated articles from a quarantined area if the articles are infested at the time of movement. Currently, growers who intend to move citrus from the core areas of the LRGV Mexfly quarantined areas can process fruit for juice or complete one of four treatments: chamber methyl bromide fumigation, high temperature forced air, cold treatment, or irradiation; see the domestic schedules of the APHIS Treatment Manual. The industry indicated that the existing approved treatments are not feasible or economically viable due to the location of the treatment facility and/or quantity of citrus projected to require treatment. Therefore, APHIS is providing an additional post-harvest treatment option to safely move fresh citrus fruit, eligible under specified conditions, from the quarantined area and the core area of a Mexfly quarantine in the LRGV. Furthermore, without a logistically feasible option for marketing this fresh citrus fruit, growers could choose to leave the fruit on the trees, which would then provide fertile breeding sites for the fruit fly population. This Federal Order provides the additional post-harvest treatment option of a tarpaulin methyl bromide fumigation equivalent to the existing approved chamber methyl bromide fumigation for fresh citrus fruit.

The language in PPQ compliance agreements used in the LRGV, as allowed under [7 CFR § 301.32-6](#), will be updated to the following:

I. Conditions for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from the Quarantined Areas and Core Areas of Lower Rio Grande Valley Mexfly Quarantines

APHIS prohibits the interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit from quarantined areas unless moved in accordance with the regulations contained in 7 CFR § 301.32 *et seq.* APHIS may issue or revoke certificates, limited permits, and compliance agreements in accordance with the provisions of that subpart.

II. Post-Harvest Treatment for the Interstate Movement of Fresh Citrus Fruit from the Quarantined Areas and Core Areas of Lower Rio Grande Valley Mexfly Quarantines

A. General Requirements

1. Growers who want to move fresh citrus fruit that is eligible for movement from a field, grove, or area located within a quarantined area, but outside a core area for a post-harvest treatment other than juicing must apply an APHIS-approved post-harvest treatment as provided in the [APHIS Treatment Manual](#), including this modified treatment that allows for methyl bromide fumigation in a tarpaulin container (D301.32-10(b-4)) equivalent to the chamber methyl bromide fumigation option.
2. Growers who want to move fresh citrus fruit that is eligible for movement from a core area for a post-harvest treatment other than juicing must apply an APHIS-approved post-harvest treatment as provided in the [APHIS Treatment Manual](#), including this modified treatment that allows for methyl bromide fumigation in a tarpaulin container

(D301.32-10(b-4)) equivalent to the chamber methyl bromide fumigation option.

3. Growers and packers engaged in growing and shipping fresh citrus fruit from the quarantined area, including core areas, must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS before shipping under a post-harvest treatment option. This compliance agreement specifies grove-specific requirements determined to be necessary to prevent the spread of Mexfly. APHIS evaluates the location of the grove in relation to the quarantine boundary prior to initiation of the compliance agreement.
4. A Federal certificate of quarantine compliance verifying that all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements listed in the compliance agreement have been met must accompany fresh citrus fruit found eligible for interstate movement under a post-harvest treatment option. A copy of the Federal certificate of quarantine compliance must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill, in concurrence with [7 CFR § 301.32-8](#).
5. Growers must properly label fresh citrus fruit and clearly mark shipping documents accompanying the containers with the statement, **“Not for export outside of the contiguous United States unless the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.”**
6. The adoption and use of pre- and post-harvest treatments are subject to monitoring by an inspector, as defined in [7 CFR § 301.32-1](#).

B. Grove Requirements

1. APHIS and the Texas Department of Agriculture must be engaged in an active trapping program in accordance with the [National Exotic Fruit Fly Detection Trapping Guidelines](#).

C. Distribution

1. Growers meeting all the requirements of paragraphs A and B in this section may move fresh citrus fruit in accordance with 7 CFR § 301.32 *et seq.* throughout the contiguous United States.
2. Growers meeting all the requirements of paragraphs A and B in this section may export fresh citrus fruit outside of the United States only if the citrus meets existing export certification requirements for regulated articles from fruit fly quarantined areas.

For additional information about the Mexfly quarantine program, you may contact the Fruit Fly Exclusion and Detection Programs National Policy Manager, Catherine Marzolf, at catherine.a.marzolf@usda.gov or 352-666-9932.