

# California Exotic Fruit Fly Project

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Exotic Fruit Fly Quarantines

- Q. I have some host fruit that will not be ripe until spring. Do I still need to treat those trees?**
- A.** Depending on the treatment schedule for your fruit, it may be necessary to begin treating now for spring harvest date.
- Q. I have trees with host fruit in pots. Can I sell them or do I need to get a permit first?**
- A.** During the quarantine, without first treating the fruit and the soil, you cannot sell your trees, regardless of where they are on your property. You will need to obtain a quarantine permit in order to sell them.
- Q. What kind of treatment do I need to treat the soil in pots?**
- A.** During the quarantine, drench treatments for nursery stock can be performed quickly, allowing the plant material to move without delay after the third treatment.
- Q. Do I need to sign a compliance agreement? If yes, then why do I need to sign a hold notice, since most of the things listed on the hold notice are already mentioned on the compliance agreement?**
- A.** Compliance agreements are issued to outline elements of a required program, so growers know what is expected of them. Only properties within 200 meters of a fly find are issued a hold notice during the quarantine. Fruit under such a hold can only be moved with written permission from the Project.
- Q. What about my neighbors? They have host fruit trees but apparently have not yet signed any compliance agreement.**
- A.** Participation in this treatment program is mandatory for growers during a declared quarantine/ Homeowners with backyard fruit trees, for personal use, are not issued compliance agreements.
- Q. What fruits are hosts of exotic fruit flies?**
- A.** Many soft-skinned fruits are hosts to these flies. To find out more, call the Project, visit our website <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/>, or refer to the enclosed host fruit list for exotic fruit flies. Note that some other fruits may also be hosts, even if not named on the list.
- Q. I only have a few host fruit trees and do not plan to sell my fruit. Can I give away any fruit to my family, friends, neighbors, or charity?**

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**A.** During a declared quarantine, you may not give away your fresh, homegrown fruit anywhere and to anyone you choose; it must first be processed.

**Q.** I have host fruit that I want to sell. What do I need to do?

**A.** Call the Project for details on what steps you must take and the type of permit you need in order to sell your harvested host fruit. If you have host fruit trees still bearing fruit, you can enter a program to treat them, according to guidelines established by USDA and CDFA.

**Q.** What if I choose not to treat?

**A.** If a quarantine has been declared, and you choose not to treat, you may not remove fresh host fruit from your property without Project permission and then only according to regulatory guidelines.

**Q.** Can I treat my host fruit after I pick it?

**A.** Post-harvest treatments are available depending on the type of fruit. See Project personnel for complete details, other host fruit must be processed before it can move from your property.

**Q.** What should I do with the host fruit on my trees if I choose not to treat?

**A.** Once a quarantine is declared, untreated host fruit that is harvested can only be removed from your property following a Project-monitored post-harvest treatment, or if it has been processed.

**Q.** Who will pay for the treatments I decide to apply?

**A.** All treatments are at the expense of the owner of the fruit.

**Q.** Who will tell me how I need to treat my host fruit?

**A.** The Exotic Fruit Fly Project staff can advise you on many aspects of treatment, such as what materials to use, the best time of day to treat, what application methods can be used, and how often treatments need to be applied.

**Q.** What do I need to do before I begin treating my host fruit?

**A.** You should contact the office of your County Agricultural Commissioner to obtain a Pesticide Use Permit, which will allow you to conduct the treatments. You can also apply to the Commissioner for a Site ID Number and Grower ID Number that you will need in order to

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purchase the treatment material. You must have these either with you or nearby, when you or somebody you hire conducts the treatments. You will also need to be issued one of the following by your County Agricultural Commissioner: An SLN (Special Local Need) Permit for purchasing and use of Malathion. Next, you need to contact the Exotic Fruit Fly Project to coordinate treatments. Project staff will give you a Treatment Schedule. Both you and Project staff will then sign a Treatment Agreement, and they will ask for some specific information about your property (i.e., how many acres/trees you will be treating if you will be using a grove service, etc.). Then you need to pick a date to begin treatments and notify the Project staff of this date. You can use the Treatment Schedule and your expected harvest date to make the decision. Exotic Fruit Fly Project staff will keep records of all your treatments and issue you a certificate of completion when you have completed the prescribed number of treatments.

**Q. What material do I use to treat?**

**A.** You have two options. You can use a Project approved Malathion mixed with liquid bait and water, and sprayed directly on the leaves of your trees, or you can treat your fruit organically using a product called Spinosad. Spinosad is also sprayed directly on the leaves of your trees. An Agricultural Official may be on site during treatments to supervise and answer any questions.

**Q. How long does the treatment period last?**

**A.** The length of the treatment period depends on the weather. Quarantine Project staff will advise you on the length of the treatment period, but the range can be between approximately 30 days to 100 days.

**Q. How many treatments will I have to apply during that time?**

**A.** You will have to apply one treatment every 7-14 days when using Malathion and every 6-10 days when using Spinosad. If it rains more than ½ inch, you will have to reapply any treatment that was applied in the last 24 hours.

**Q. Can I eat my own fruit?**

**A.** Yes, you can eat your own fruit while on your property, whether a quarantine is in place or not.

**Q. How will I know if my orchard is in the vicinity of an exotic fruit fly find?**

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- A.** You should contact the Exotic Fruit Fly Project or the local office of your County Agricultural Commissioner.
- Q.** Is a quarantine fumigation available at this time?
- A.** No, not at this time.
- Q.** My host fruit is ready to pick right now. I have to pick it soon, otherwise I could lose the whole crop. What should I do?
- A.** You should harvest your crop as you normally would; but you will need to then choose a post-harvest treatment or processing option in order to move if from your property.