

Program Name: Fruit Fly Eradication Methods Development
Project ID: 2514
Lead Agency: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.2
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 2

Project Synopsis: Fruit flies are one of the most potentially destructive pests in the world. With a wide host range of fruits, vegetables and nuts, most of Florida’s crops, including citrus, fall within the host range. This makes it imperative to act quickly and decisively when any species of fruit fly is found. The division is currently utilizing several methods to support and protect Florida from exotic fruit fly pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly, *Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedemann), is one of the world's most destructive fruit pests. Because of its wide distribution over the world, its ability to tolerate colder climates better than most other species of fruit flies, and its wide range of hosts, it is ranked first among economically important fruit fly species.

Its larvae develop and feed on most deciduous, subtropical, and tropical fruits and some vegetables. Although it may be a major pest of citrus, often it is a more serious pest of some deciduous fruits, such as peach, pear, and apple. The larvae feed upon the pulp of host fruits, sometimes tunneling through it and eventually reducing the whole to a juicy inedible mass. This project is aimed at the discovery of alternative soil drench control measures that can be utilized to control the pupating life stage that is present in soil beneath host fruit trees.

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 9/30/2012
Finish Date: 9/29/2014

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	\$35,000						
SFWMD**							
Local							
Total	\$35,000						

Contact: Dr. Greg Hodges, Chief-Entomology, Nematology and Plant Pathology, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.