



CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY



The Mediterranean fruit fly also known as the *Ceratitis capitata* Wiedemann originates from the Mediterranean but is currently present in Africa, Australia, Central America, South America, Southern Europe, and Hawaii. Some countries like Chile and Mexico have eradicated the pest but in others, it is under control.

Infected fruits like the West Indian cherry, show the typical dark dots of infestation. The dark dots are caused by egg-laying. Other fruits show less to no systems of infestation.



The Mediterranean fruit fly has over 350 different hosts, belonging to 67 different plant families. In the Caribbean, these major hosts feature guava, cashew, mango, cherimoya, coffee, tropical almond, akee, tomato, pepper, citrus species, and starapple.

The adult female Mediterranean fly lays eggs under the skin of the fruits where the eggs hatch within 2-3 days. The larvae feed on fruit pulp. The fruits then mature and fall onto the ground, leaving the larvae to pupate in the soil, new adult flies emerge within 6-13 days.



The medfly is captured using detection traps such as Jackson traps with trimedlure. Mediterranean fruit flies do not occur in our countries, but they are trapped with Dome McPhail traps.

What can you do?

- Do NOT bring into your country any fruit or agricultural produce without the required Plant Quarantine Import Permits/Approval
- When you travel declare all agricultural items
- Report any infested (pierced or larvae present) fruit to your Ministry or Department of Agriculture. If fruit flies are present do not sell or transport infested fruit
- Follow all control recommendations from your Ministry or Department of Agriculture