

The Secretariat of Agriculture implements actions against the Mediterranean fly in eight municipalities in Colima

- As a precautionary measure, technicians from the National Service for Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) strengthened the trap-based monitoring network in Jalisco, Michoacan, Guerrero and Nayarit, to prevent that the pest spreads to these federated states.
- 400,000 parasitoid wasps, bred at the Moscamed plant in Metapa de Domínguez, Chiapas, were released in Colima. The purpose of the wasps is to lay their eggs in the fly larvae inside the fruits, which prevents their development.

Technicians from the National Service of Food Safety and Agriculture Quality (SENASICA), in coordination with producers and estatal personnel of Colima, implement control and eradication actions against the Mediterranean fly in eight municipalities in the state, and watch the four surrounding states to prevent the dispersal of the pest, which was detected in April.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development informed that health specialists have delimited 82 square kilometers in the municipalities of Manzanillo, Armería, Tecomán, Coquimatlán, Comala, Colima, Villa de Álvarez and Ixtlahuacán where the pest has been detected.

Further, the agency detailed that, as a precautionary measure, the trap-based monitoring network in Jalisco, Michoacan, Guerrero and Nayarit has been strengthened to prevent the pest from moving to those federated states.

2,756 traps, 8,093 bait stations and 642 male-annihilating traps were set up in an area of 777 square kilometers in Colima. Also, 1,350 fruit samples were collected and 11,610 kg of host fruits were destroyed.

Specialists sprinkled over 2,870 hectares in urban and rural communities and, as a precautionary measure, 4,474 hectares of production areas.

The sprinkled product is specifically organic and does not harm other beneficial insect species, such as the pollinators, emphasized the SENASICA.

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During the next few weeks the SENASICA shall deploy the sterile insect technique with the release each week of 20 million sterile Mediterranean flies that will mate with wild females and stop them from reproducing.

The agency pointed out that is arranging the publication of the National Emergency Device against the Mediterranean fly in the Federal Official Gazette. The National Emergency Device specifies the regulated area, the scientific and common names of the host fruits of the pest that are subject to regulation, the Federal Verification and Inspection points and the phytosanitary measures of control and eradication.

By preventing the pest from establishing in our country, the agency stated that the Mexican government protects from harm approximately 1.9 million hectares of fruit and vegetable crops, worth over 189,470 millions of Mexican pesos.

In Colima the SENASICA protects an agricultural production of approximately 3.6 millions tons, with an estimated worth of 7,993 millions of Mexican pesos.

The Mediterranean fly (*Ceratitis capitata*, Wiedemann) is one of the most destructive non-native pests for fruits and vegetables, of which Mexico is free of. The countries where the pest has established are subject to severe quarantine actions that stop them from placing more than 250 fruit and vegetable products in the international market.

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