

FRUIT FLIES: MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY (*Ceratitis capitata*)
PEACH FRUIT FLY (*Bactrocera zonata*)



Fruit Fly damage to pear showing probable point of egg-laying



Pupae in soil



Female medfly laying eggs in a peach



Peach Fruit Fly

Description

Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) infests many different fruits and vegetables worldwide: citrus, peach, pear, apple, apricot, fig, plum, kiwi, quince, vines, cherry (sweet), pomegranate, strawberry, etc. Fruits rot and fall from the tree. Even if only pierced by egg-laying, the fruit is unsalable. Peach Fruit Fly is very similar.

The lifecycles differs from Melon Fly in that females need to feed to lay eggs. Adult flies emerge from overwintering pupae and are active when temperatures are over 12°C. The female lays its eggs in clusters of 3 to 7, about 2 to 5 mm deep inside fruits. Up to 80 eggs may be found in one fruit. Larvae take 15 days to develop at 25°C. At 32°C, a generation is completed in 2 weeks. Pupae cannot survive temperatures below 2°C—thus medfly is only a problem in areas such as Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar with mild winters.

Monitoring

Commercial traps are available for adult medfly to time chemical sprays.

Control

Remove infested fruit and either cook for animal feed or place in water with kerosene to keep out air for 4-5 days. If buried deep add lime to destroy pupae.

Foliage baits attract males and females and are made of protein with insecticide. Spray the bait into the middle of trees in the morning or on foliage of other plants nearby. Apply every 2 weeks. Insecticides used include malathion and spinosad, but malathion is more toxic to beneficial insects. 'Nu-Lure' is a commercially available protein bait to mix with malathion. 'GF-120' is a commercial protein bait mixed with spinosad. Marmite has been used in home-made baits.