



Mediterranean fruit fly *iStock Photo*

Niemeyer said California has been worried about the Mediterranean fruit fly since the early 1900s. When freight and passenger ships began arriving from Hawaii (which was infested fast and furiously by then), California became the first state to quarantine against invading pests. Recently peach fruit flies have been found in San Jose and the guava fruit fly was identified in Alameda County. An oriental fruit fly infestation in Stockton in 2011 had farmers plowing under their crops to prevent its spread. The state funded program runs seasonally from April to October or November. Field inspections are made on site and any suspicious bugs are taken to a laboratory in Sacramento for further testing.

"If there is an infestation, we will find it as soon as possible," Niemeyer said. She encouraged homeowners to cooperate with the county.

"Please let us use your fruit trees," she said.



A female (top) and male (bottom) European gypsy moth.
Credit: National Invasive Species Information Center

Tom Stack *presents ...*

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