



Questions and Answers: 2019 European Cherry Fruit Fly Survey

What is the survey?

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is placing about 9,000 traps in Niagara County and in a portion of Erie County. The survey helps APHIS monitor the European cherry fruit fly (ECFF) population and determine if there are other locations where the invasive fruit fly is present.



What do the traps look like?

The yellow panel trap is a rectangular cardboard trap coated on both sides with a mixture of a sticky material and a food bait. The traps are about 9 inches long and hang vertically in trees.

Do the traps really catch the fruit flies?

The trap helps detect new infestations and monitor the insect's spread. It is not meant to catch fruit flies as a way to reduce populations.

What is the bait?

The food-based attractant is ammonium acetate.

How do the traps work?

Adult insects will fly around looking for a mate or fruit to lay eggs in and if it lands on a trap, it will get stuck in the non-toxic glue. APHIS checks the traps regularly.

How long will the survey take to complete?

Trap placement begins in May and June, and trapping continues for approximately three to four months. The traps are removed in the fall.

If the ECFF is not known to be in my area, will the traps attract the fruit fly to my property?

No, the traps do not pull flies into an area. The traps are a detection tool to help determine if it is already there.

What happens when ECFF is found stuck on a trap?

The insect is collected from the trap and sent to a local insect identifier for verification. APHIS then communicates verification that the insect is ECFF to the appropriate State officials.

If a trap is in my area, does that mean ECFF is there?

No. A trap located in your community does not mean ECFF is present, it just means we are looking for it. The goal of the survey is to locate infestations.

What were the results of the survey in 2018?

The 2018 survey resulted in 5,002 flies found in 617 traps. Survey activities allow APHIS to monitor the infestation. This information helped guide decisions on trap placement for the 2019 survey.

What determines where a trap is set?

Surveyors place traps in and around sites where ECFF was found in 2018, on adjacent properties, and within a buffer area based on how far the insect can spread.

How can I help?

Allow APHIS surveyors access to your property to place and check traps. Residents with questions can contact the program office by calling 1-800-249-2363 or emailing ppq.ecff@aphis.usda.gov. Learn more at www.aphis.usda.gov/hungrypests/ecff.