

## Mediterranean Fruit Fly

*Ceratitis capitata* Wiedemann (Diptera, Tephritidae)

### Primary hosts

Coffee, bell pepper, citrus, common fig, apple

### Symptoms

Attacked fruit usually shows signs of oviposition punctures and there is laboratory evidence of fruit-rotting fungal transmission. Very sweet fruits may produce a sugary exudate.

### Life cycle

Eggs of *C. capitata* are laid below the skin of the host fruit. They hatch within 2-4 days (up to 16-18 days in cool weather) and the larvae feed for another 6-11 days (at 13-28°C). Eggs pupate in the soil under the host plant and adults emerge after 6-11 days (24-26°C; longer in cool conditions) and adults may live for up to 2 months. The climatic area in which *C. capitata* survives coincides with where Citrus is grown. Dispersal is by adult flight (up to 20km) and by transport of infested fruit.



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Life Stages: Adult, pupa, larva, eggs  
from: [http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean\\_fruit\\_fly.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean_fruit_fly.htm)

### Impact in Oregon

Negligible.

N.B. *Ceratitis capitata*, the Mediterranean fruit fly, is one of the greatest economic pests of fruit worldwide. Adult flies require a protein food source in order to develop eggs, which may include animal excrement. A laboratory study, which investigated the possibility of *C. capitata* transmission of *Escherichia coli* to intact apples, found that the Mediterranean fruit fly is a potential vector of human pathogens to fruit and unpasteurized fruit juices.

(<http://www.pestalert.org/pestnews.cfm>, dated Aug 5, 2005)



Peach infested with larvae from:  
[http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean\\_fruit\\_fly.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/mediterranean_fruit_fly.htm)