

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct an invasive insect survey in select locations within the Town of Canandaigua during May and June. The survey will focus on detecting and addressing infestations of the European Cherry Fruit Fly (ECFF), an invasive pest that threatens cherry trees and honeysuckle bushes.

Survey and Property Access USDA representatives will directly approach private property owners in affected areas to request permission to survey for the pest. The survey aims to identify the presence of ECFF and mitigate its impact on local plant life. Please be aware that USDA staff conducting these surveys will be in properly identified vehicles, wearing safety vests, and carrying official identification.

Impact of the European Cherry Fruit Fly ECFF poses a significant threat to cherry trees and honeysuckle bushes, particularly those commonly found along roadsides. In heavily infested areas, the fly can destroy up to 100% of cherry crops and other host plants if left uncontrolled. To prevent the spread of this destructive pest, prompt action is essential.

Preventing the Spread of ECFF When an ECFF infestation is identified, State regulatory officials establish an intrastate quarantine to limit its spread within New York. Simultaneously, the USDA enforces an interstate quarantine to prevent the pest from expanding beyond state borders. These coordinated efforts regulate the movement of host fruits, nursery plants, and other items that may carry the fly, helping to control and suppress outbreaks locally.

What You Can Do

- Cooperate with agricultural workers conducting surveys and, if necessary, allow treatment on your property to curb the spread of ECFF.
- Follow quarantine restrictions in fruit fly-infested areas to prevent further infestations.
- Declare all food, live animals, and plant or animal products when traveling into the U.S. If allowed, inspectors will check them to ensure they are pest-free.
- Be aware of restrictions on cherry imports from Canada. Cherries from Quebec and Ontario are prohibited from entering the U.S., while those from other provinces require proof of origin.

By staying informed and cooperating with USDA efforts, residents of Canandaigua can help protect local agriculture from the harmful effects of the European Cherry Fruit Fly.

