

Autosterilization of medfly in the field

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Current medfly, *Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedemann), control methods are mainly based on organophosphate bait sprays. Also, mass-trapping, the Sterile Insect Technique and biocontrol techniques are eventually employed. Spinosad[®], is an insecticide of bacterial origin that may replace in the coming years organophosphates.

We have developed a medfly control method based on autosterilization in the field –active ingredient: lufenuron[®]-. The Insect Growth Regulator (Chitin Synthesis Inhibitor) is employed in the field in a suitable way to allow medflies become sterilized. Small and medium-sized field trials have shown a good degree of fruit damage prevention. Large-scale field trials are currently under way.