

## **FLORIDA ALLOWS ENTRY OF SOUTH AFRICAN ORANGES**

**Effective Date: July 1, 2005**

The Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services lifted the temporary ban on the import and sale of South African oranges (Clementine and navel) due to increased cold treatment protocol compliance by South African shippers. The temporary ban was imposed last week due to the discovery of live larvae of the false codling moth in shipments received at California border stations. The Department immediately conducted inspections of wholesale and retail produce facilities throughout Florida. Inspections resulted in the discovery of no live larvae; however, 12 dead larvae were discovered.

To prevent the possible introduction of this destructive insect, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has changed the treatment protocol for future imports of South African oranges, because the previous protocol was not adequate.

Prior treatment protocols required the fruit to be held in cold treatment (31° F) for a 22-day period in its country of origin, or in transit, prior to arrival in the U.S. New protocols will require shipments to undergo a three-day pre-chilling period in South Africa and a 24-day cold treatment period.

The false codling moth has never been found in the U.S. prior to the recent discovery.

Larvae feed on several kinds of fruit and other crops, including citrus, peach, avocado, custard apple, guava, persimmon, pomegranate, olives, mangosteen, cotton, Sorghum, okra, castor-oil seed (*Ricinus*), and corn. Over 50 kinds of fruit have been recorded in Africa as hosts of this species. The moth's impact on citrus in Africa has been devastating.

Pictures of the false codling moth are included. If anyone finds larvae in Clementine or navel oranges, they are urged to call the Department's toll-free helpline number at 888-397-1517 or visit [www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi)



False codling moth larva, approximately ½ inch long  
Photo: USDA



False codling moth, approximately ½ inch long, inside orange  
Photo: Sean Moore, Citrus Research International