

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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QUARANTINE AGAINST EXPORT OF CERTAIN ROTA FRUITS AND VEGETABLES REIMPOSED

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,

Mar. 27 . . . A quarantine against Rota fruits and vegetables to prevent the spread of the melon fly to the Mariana Islands north of Rota has been reimposed by Trust Territory Staff Entomologist Robert P. Owen.

This quarantine, which is already in effect by authority of a Mariana Islands District Order, prohibits the movement of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, fruits, watermelons, cantelopes, other species of melons, squashes, pumpkins and gourds from Rota to any other islands in the Mariana Islands District.

Although this quarantine was lifted last week it was reimposed today since the melon fly has been found again on Rota--presumably having blown over from Guam. The Trust Territory Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin another melon fly eradication program on Rota in April. At this time, one half million sterile melon flies, received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Hawaii, will be released on Rota. Weekly shipments and releases of sterile flies will continue on Rota until eradication of the melon fly has been achieved again.

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