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He called the chance of a California - like epidemic among North Carolina crops "negligible."

"The Mediterranean fly can't survive a North Carolina winter. So to cause major damage to a state crop it would have to infest a crop in the early spring," Guthrie noted. "Unless infested Californiagrown fruit was stored in the controlled environment of a North Carolina warehouse during the winter, a major epidemic would be all but impossible.

Guthrie explained that in 1929, before malathion was developed, Florida growers topped a Mediterranean fruit fly epidemic by simply picking all their fly-infested fruit and shipping it north.

"The fruit came to cooler climates like North Carolina's. The Mediterranean flies were killed by the winter, and the epidemic was ended," Guthrie said.

Guthrie directs the training aspect of NCSU's toxicology program. The program is administered through NCSU's School of Agriculture and Life Science and receives unding from the stitute of Environmental Health

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