NEW CESSNA CARAVANS TO BOOST USDA'S FIGHT AGAINST CROP-DAMAGING INSECTS

News / Manufacturer

Textron Aviation announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has ordered three Cessna Caravan aircraft to support its sterile insect release program protecting citrus crops along the Rio Grande River in southern Texas. The new aircraft are expected to be delivered in 2027. APHIS will use the Caravans to carry and release sterile insects that help prevent the spread of destructive pests, including fruit flies. The environmentally friendly technique helps safeguard fruit-bearing trees, reduce crop damage and protect agricultural industries that rely on healthy harvests.

Bob Gibbs, vice president, Special Mission Sales commented: "These aircraft will help APHIS reach remote areas and carry out their important mission of protecting agriculture. We're proud to support their work with the dependable and versatile Caravan."

© 2015-2026 50SKYSHADES.COM — Reproduction, copying, or redistribution for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Known for its payload capacity, reliability and ability to operate in remote environments, the Cessna Caravan is well-suited for aerial application missions that require long flight durations, steady low-altitude operations and access to rugged airstrips. APHIS will equip the aircraft with custom release systems that safely distribute sterile insects across wide areas — an approach that reduces pest populations without the use of chemicals.

APHIS currently operates Cessna Stationair aircraft for similar missions. The addition of the Caravan expands its fleet capacity, enhancing the agency's ability to conduct aerial pest management programs that protect crops, support growers and strengthen environmental stewardship.

© 2015-2026 50SKYSHADES.COM — Reproduction, copying, or redistribution for commercial purposes is prohibited.

13 MAY 2026

ARTICLE LINK:
https://50skyshades.com/index.php/news/manufacturer/new-cessna-caravans-to-boost-usdas-fight-against-crop-damaging-insects

© 2015-2026 50SKYSHADES.COM — Reproduction, copying, or redistribution for commercial purposes is prohibited.