

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

- The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) is an invasive pest that attacks over 250 crops (examples: citrus, grapes and fruit tree crops) and 2,000 host and ornamental plants (examples: roses, jasmine and mums).
- In early 2007, LBAM's presence was first confirmed by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and an emergency was declared.
 - This is the first infestation of LBAM in the contiguous 48 states.
 - The state legislature passed legislation stating that the infestation presented a "clear and present danger."
- LBAM is currently infested (and quarantines are in place) in ten Bay Area and Central Coast counties (Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, Alameda, Solano, and Santa Barbara).
 - Isolated detections last year in Los Angeles and Napa counties have already been eradicated (using twist ties that emit moth pheromone), and in Sonoma County, where a single moth has been detected, intensive trapping is underway to determine if there are more.

ERADICATION PROGRAM

- Protecting California's environment from invasive species is the goal, and eradication (via mating disruption) is the strategy.
- Mating disruption using synthetic moth pheromones is the anticipated, primary tool for eradication. This material confuses the male moths and prevents them from finding females, thereby stopping the mating and reproduction process.
- The eradication program was designed by the Technical Working Group (TWG) and is under constant scientific review. The TWG is a group of global scientific experts appointed by the USDA to advise and evaluate California's LBAM infestation. Their eradication program is based on published and peer-reviewed research, as well as TWG's career and academic experiences.
- Anticipated methods are based on levels of infestation and include:
 - Pheromone-infused twist ties (applied by hand) to treat the "outlier infestations" (few moths in isolated areas).
 - Currently being used in Alameda, Marin, San Mateo and Solano counties.
 - Planned for Treasure Island (San Francisco County) and Carpinteria (Santa Barbara County) in late March and April.
 - A "male attractant technique" that combines the pheromone with a pesticide in a mixture applied in small splotches on utility poles and trees for "intermediate infestations" (a limited number of moths spread over a fairly large area).
 - Aerial spraying with a TBD pheromone product to treat the heaviest infestations (many moths in a large area).
 - Additional methods include the release of tiny, stingless parasitic wasps that feed on the moths' eggs and organic-approved biopesticides Bt or Spinosad to treat concentrations of LBAM larvae.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- CDFA is reaching out to affected communities – including hearings, briefings, meetings, mailings, and earned media – to educate and explain the eradication program.
- CDFA will continue to encourage citizens to subscribe to the email notification service, utilize the hotline and visit the website for current information.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

CDFA - www.cdca.ca.gov/lbam,

CDFA Pest Hotline: 800-491-1899

APHIS/USDA - www.aphis.usda.gov

