



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Light Brown Apple Moth Update

(Woodland, CA) – In April 2009, Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) was found in Davis. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began delimitation trapping which resulted in the detection of additional LBAM. A cooperative project will begin eradication efforts in January 2010 to control the infestation with pheromone-infused twist ties within the city of Davis quarantine areas. An informational open house for residents within the twist tie deployment area will be held January 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Club Room of the Veterans Memorial Center, located at 203 East 14th Street in Davis.

The LBAM is native to Australia and is found in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Hawaii. The range of host plants is broad with more than 2,000 plant species known to be susceptible to attack by this pest, and more than 250 crops. The LBAM threatens California's environment by destroying, stunting or deforming young seedlings and damaging new growth in the forest canopy. The moth also feeds on host plants and damages or spoils the appearance of ornamental plants, citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit tree crops. For more information on the LBAM visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam.

“The number of insects found within the city of Davis indicates that an active breeding population exists within the quarantine area, necessitating an eradication effort,” said Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner John Young. “If LBAM were to become established in California, the impact on production costs could top \$100 million.”

The odorless and colorless moth pheromone used to eradicate LBAM creates mating disruption by preventing male moths from locating females. This method is highly specific to targeted moth populations. The State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's evaluation of the pheromone-infused twist ties indicate they are not likely to pose a health hazard to humans, including children.

The eradication area is a 1.5 mile radius around each LBAM find site, with a twist tie deployment area of 200 meters around each LBAM find site. Residents in the deployment area will receive notices detailing the deployment and inviting them to the informational open house on January 14.

For more information contact Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner John Young (530) 666-8148.

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