



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Home Wine Makers Asked to Take Precautions to Prevent EGVM

(Woodland, CA) – Due to infestations of European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) in some areas of California, all Yolo County vintners (commercial and home wine makers) and receivers of bulk grapes should contact the Yolo County Agriculture Department at (530) 666-8140 for information and instructions should they anticipate receiving grapes for crush from outside Yolo County.

Native to Mediterranean Europe, the EGVM is particularly fond of grapes, but also enjoys olives, another increasingly important local crop in Yolo County. EGVM was reported for the first time in the United States in Napa Valley in September of 2009. At that time, 23 properties were found to be infested. The pest caused extensive damage to the vineyards, with 100% crop loss and over \$2 million in damage. Since last fall, specific insect trapping programs launched by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) has found the pest in six additional California counties – Sonoma, Solano, Fresno, Mendocino, Lake and Merced.

The movement of bulk grapes (unprocessed) is suspected to be the pathway of movement of EGVM within California. Based on this, CDFA and the United States Department of Agriculture have developed specific standards for movement of grapes from counties where the pest is now known to occur. Producers of grapes within infested area, as well as haulers and receivers of the grapes, must assure through inspection and treatment that the product is free from the pest to prevent the spread of the insect. All associated green waste, such as stems, leaves, twigs, pumice, etc., are also under quarantine and require special handling.

“In Yolo County we are particularly concerned about home wine making activities since home wine makers operate outside traditional regulatory channels and may be unaware of the risks associated with the movement of small bulk grape shipments,” said Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner John Young. “We encourage our home wine makers to source locally as much as possible, or to have the wine grapes juiced at their origin. We need their help to protect Yolo County’s valuable grape industry by only bringing in grapes from infested areas under compliance agreement.”

Preliminary data indicates for 2009, wine grapes jumped from number 4 to number 2 in the list of Yolo County’s top commodities, with a value over \$56 million. The 2009 crop report is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 14.

Questions concerning EGVM should be directed to the Yolo County Agriculture Department (530) 666-8140 (Mondays through Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Additional information about the EGVM quarantine can be viewed here: www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PE/InteriorExclusion/egvm_quarantine.html.

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