



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Light Brown Apple Moth Detected in Clarksburg

(Woodland, CA) – Recently, a single Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) was found in a trap located at Jefferson Boulevard and Central Avenue in Clarksburg. The detection of a second LBAM in the Clarksburg area would trigger a quarantine. In the event of a quarantine, all regulated entities, such as nurseries, landscapers, packing houses and green waste handlers will be identified, informed of the quarantine restrictions and placed under a compliance agreement. Quarantine compliance inspections will be conducted as necessary in all quarantine areas to ensure ongoing compliance with quarantine restrictions.

The Light Brown Apple Moth 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.cdffa.ca.gov/lbam.

“If this moth were to become established in California, the negative impact on production costs could top \$100 million,” said Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan.

In January, 2010, a cooperative eradication effort was begun to control the LBAM infestation with pheromone-infused twist ties in other parts of Yolo County. 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.

“We have contacted our apple shippers and the Clarksburg Wine Growers and Vintners Association and are in the process of assessing the impacts of this find,” said Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner John Young. “We are working closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture on responding to LBAM detections in Yolo County. There are no current plans to treat in the Clarksburg area. Response in Clarksburg could in the future include a sterile insect or a pheromone-infused twist tie technique. Aerial spraying is not currently an option.”

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

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