



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH – A SERIOUS PEST TO AGRICULTURE FOUND IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

San Luis Obispo, CA, July 31, 2009 -- The detection of three adult Light Brown Apple Moths found in insect traps placed in residential landscapes in Los Osos as part of the County Agricultural Commissioner's ongoing pest detection program, signifies the presence of this significant pest in San Luis Obispo County. Additional traps have been placed throughout Los Osos to quickly detect additional moths and to delineate the extent of the range of this pest. A pending local quarantine, which restricts the movement of certain plants, fruits and vegetables, green waste and other related material, is mandated and under development in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Light Brown Apple Moth, native to Australia, can affect hundreds of species of plants including native plants, ornamentals and food crops. The caterpillar stage of this insect can destroy, stunt or deform young seedlings, spoil the appearance of ornamental plants and can injure citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit crops. Currently nine coastal California counties are under quarantine for the presence of this pest. California is the only known infested area in the continental United States for Light Brown Apple Moth.

"My staff is working proactively and collaboratively with CDFA and USDA and the affected growers to contain this pest, to certify plants and agricultural commodities for movement outside the quarantine area, and to minimize the impact to local agriculture as much as possible" said Bob Lilley, County Agricultural Commissioner.

CDFA is the lead agency charged with eradication of quarantine pests statewide. CDFA officials will closely monitor the local situation. Pesticide treatments are not planned at this time for eradication.

For more information visit the CDFA website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam or the Ag Commissioner's website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm.

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