

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

United States Department of Agriculture California Department of Food and Agriculture County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner

EVALUATION OF STERILE INSECT TECHNIQUE

The light brown apple moth (LBAM) has invaded California and become established in 20 counties. LBAM infests a large number of native and forest plant species. LBAM also poses a threat to agricultural crops including grapes, citrus, apple, pear, peach, berry crops, as well as the ornamental nursery industry. The nursery industry is threatened by the suitability of many nursery plants for infestation by LBAM and the regulatory consequences that may follow if LBAM becomes established in southern California.

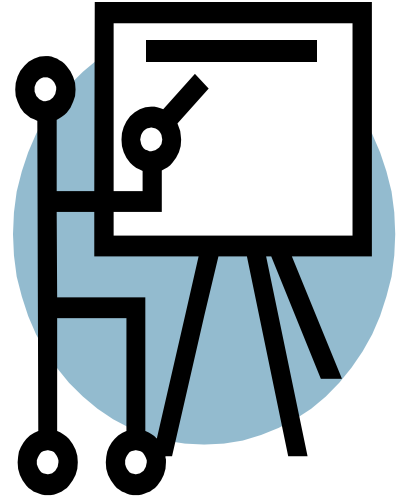
USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) work with the County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner to combat this pest using integrated pest management (IPM) practices applied on an area-wide basis. The release of sterile moths (sterile insect technique, SIT) will be a key component of the overall

control program for LBAM in California. The SIT has been used successfully against several major pests, including two prominent successes in California: stopping Mediterranean fruit fly establishment in the Los Angeles basin and keeping the cotton pest, pink bollworm from the San Joaquin valley. To evaluate the effectiveness of sterile moth release, a project is planned to evaluate SIT in a one square mile area in the center of the LBAM infestation in Long Beach. This square mile area in Long Beach extends from Ocean Blvd north to 8th St. and from Temple Ave. east to Ximeno Ave.

These small moths, about ¼ to ½ inch in length, will be released three times per week for a weekly total of 100,000 to 500,000 moths. Releases are expected to continue, weather permitting, for approximately 20 weeks. These moths are not likely to be noticeable above the natural moth population. The highest

release rate is equivalent to a little less than 2 moths per 10 by 10 foot area weekly. The sterile moths will be released during the morning hours, either by hand onto vegetation or by truck, dispersing chilled moths from the roadways. Once released, the sterile moths will seek mates within the wild LBAM population.

To evaluate program results, agriculture workers will place an average of 3-4 moth monitoring traps per city block. These red plastic triangular shaped insect traps (about 10 inches long and 5 inches tall) will be placed in vegetation and baited with a non-toxic attractant. Because female moths are not attracted to the pheromone bait, host attractant traps such as port wine or apple juice traps may also be used. General light traps may also be used to attract both female and male LBAM. These traps will be sampled weekly.



**SEE MAP
BACK PAGE**



Light Brown apple moth adult

INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, June 8

5:30-7:30 PM

Recreation Park

4900 E. 7th St.

Long Beach, CA



Evaluation area is north of 2nd Street, south of East 8th Street, East of Temple Ave., and West of Ximeno Ave.