

In September 2007, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) initiated a program to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. The CDFA announced recently that treatment using pheromone-infused twist ties is scheduled to begin February 25 in San Mateo County and March 4 in San Rafael. Aerial pheromone treatments in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties are planned to resume in late spring or early summer. Other treatment efforts will include pheromone twist ties, which will likely be applied beginning this month.

The following treatments have not yet been scheduled: 1) ground treatments with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) and spinosad, 2) a "male attractant" treatment, and 3) releasing *Trichogramma* wasps, which lay their eggs inside moth eggs.

The first confirmation of the LBAM came in February 2007. Since then, many thousands have been detected in the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, Alameda and Solano. Small, isolated infestations detected last year in Los Angeles and Napa counties have already been eradicated.

Read more (at [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)) and sign up for for LBAM email updates (at <http://phpps.cdca.gov/notification/signup2.aspx>) from CDFA.

Read CDFA's press release (at [http://www.cdca.gov/egov/Press\\_Releases/Press\\_Release.asp?PRnum=08-003](http://www.cdca.gov/egov/Press_Releases/Press_Release.asp?PRnum=08-003)) with details about its 2008 LBAM eradication program.

Also visit Pesticide Action Network North America's extensive LBAM web page at <http://www.panna.org/resources/lbam>.

Updates from the PANNA website:

**Jan. 10** -- "Citizen groups and governmental agencies have received hundreds of complaints from people who said they had adverse physical reactions following the state's three recent rounds of aerial pesticide spraying in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties," reports [Pesticide Watch](#). >From September through November, CDFA repeatedly covered densely populated areas of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties with aerial applications of CheckMate. [MSNBC](#) reported that, after the first aerial spraying, residents began to complain of shortness of breath and sharp stomach pains. On Jan. 5, the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) cited an allegation that 643 complaints had been filed. CDFA spokesman Steve Lyle said his agency had received 330 complaints of spray-related illness but he downplayed the news, insisting that "the agencies with the jurisdiction to review the product have told us it's safe to use.... [and] the Checkmate products were unlikely the cause of the illnesses reported." (See Nov. 22 update, below.) A coalition of state and local groups has called on the governor and legislature to block further aerial spraying, which could resume as early as February and extend into San Francisco and the East Bay by summer. Instead, citizen activists are recommending use of less invasive pheromone-scented traps and twist-ties. Santa Cruz City Councilmember Emily Reilly declared, "I believe further spraying must be halted until we can be certain it is safe."

**Feb. 15** -- The CDFA has released its revised "[2008-2009 LBAM Action Plan](#)" that continues to claim that "eradication is the goal" of the program, including a combination of aerial application of pheromone products around the SF Bay region. An expanded program of ground-level IPM programs will accompany the aerial spraying, prior to aerial spraying and continuing through several moth growth cycles, including pheromone "twist ties" and introduction of the *Trichogramma* parasitic wasp in Golden Gate Park, Santa Cruz, Soquel, Carmel and the Seaside/Marina area of Monterey. Aerial applications of a new formulation of CheckMate over areas of heaviest investment will begin June 1 in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, and about August 1 in areas of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.