

State: Moth spray to resume

Ag officials mull
other treatments

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Light Brown
Apple Moth

SANTA CRUZ — The state's fight against the light brown apple moth will restart in late spring or early summer in Santa Cruz County, state agriculture officials said Tuesday.

A method using twist-ties to apply a pheromone to plants, trees and fence posts is being considered, but Santa Cruz County is too heavily infested for that approach to be used here, said Steve Lyle, spokesman for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The Department of Food and Agriculture said Tuesday it is continuing to develop plans for its 2008 eradication program in nine counties along the coast in the Bay Area.

"We're working as quickly as we can to make more specific plans because we know there is a lot of interest in the program," Lyle said.

While considering alternatives to supplement aerial spraying, that method appears, at least for now, to be the preferred method recommended by experts with the state agriculture department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.