

# ✓ Moth-fighting pheromone spraying to begin June 1

Light Brown Apple Moth R.P. 2-14-07  
Watsonville scheduled for its first aerial application as fight against light brown apple moth resumes

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Beginning June 1, Watsonville will receive its first dose of moth-fighting pheromones as the state resumes battling the light brown apple moth, an invasive pest, with a controversial method of aerial spraying.

On June 1, airplanes are scheduled to begin spraying pheromones — a product that

disrupts insect mating by confusing male moth. Spraying will occur in the infested areas of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, with subsequent aerial treatments expected to begin Aug.



Rios

1 in San Francisco County, Daly City, Colma, Oakland, Piedmont, Emeryville, Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Tiburon and Belvedere, the California Department of Food and Agriculture announced Tuesday.

The treatments in these areas are designed to be reapplied at 30- to 90-day intervals while the moths are active, the state reported. After two life cycles

of mating disruption, if no additional moths are found, the applications can stop, the state reported in its 2008-09 action plan for fighting the light brown apple moth.

The first confirmed finding of the light brown apple moth in the Bay Area came in February 2007. CDFA and U.S. Department of Agriculture say the pest threatens California's en-

vironment — including cypress, redwood and oak trees — and the food supply. The pest destroys, stunts or deforms young seedlings; spoils the appearance of ornamental plants; and injures citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit tree crops, according to the agencies.

Opponents call the pheromone product a risky solution that hasn't been adequately

tested.

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## Watsonville City Council to weigh in

Watsonville City Councilmembers raised the issue of pheromone spraying last year but let the subject drop when the city wasn't included in initial rounds of applications.

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