

# PHEROMONE

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In Monterey County, airplanes completed an aerial application recently to try to curb that county's population of the light brown apple moths, an invasive pest that agriculture officials say threatens hundreds of crops and plants.

"On Nov. 4, we're scheduled to begin aerial application of

pheromone treatment that will run through the ninth of November in three different locations," CDFA spokesman Steve Lyle reported Tuesday.

Application of pheromones from the air is unprecedented, but Lyle said it's necessary due to the wide expanse of terrain.

"This is the most environmentally friendly application in the history of the California Department of Food and Agriculture," Lyle said. "The agricultural community has been ask-

ing for something like this for years in lieu of pesticide spraying, and this is that program."

A Sept. 12 situation report from CDFA estimated that 6,477 light brown apple moths have turned up in Santa Cruz County since the pest was first detected in California in late March.

On the ground, the "LBAM project" at Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds is the headquarters for a broader eradication effort, involving monitoring,

trapping and pesticide applications at nurseries. This ongoing effort is critical to success or failure to stopping the moth, which could inflict an estimated \$133 million in crop damage, officials say.