

5 years later, moth funding flutters away

Light Brown Apple Moth
Pest once touted as an emergency
now rarely talked about

By **PAUL ROGERS**
San Jose Mercury News

Five years ago, after a retired University of California professor found a light brown apple moth in his Berkeley backyard, the state and federal government responded with a blitzkrieg.

Warning that the invasive pest could devastate California's farms, government officials fanned out across the Bay Area. In fall 2007, they used airplanes to spray areas of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, sparking lawsuits and health complaints from residents.

Today, however, the state is quietly dropping funding for the program.

Money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will keep the program alive for at least another year.



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SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL FILE
Santa Cruz County residents expressed strident opposition in February 2008 to aerial spraying to try and eradicate the light brown apple moth.

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