

Fog grounds moth spray planes again

Light Brown Apple
moth

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SANTA CRUZ — Three pilots preparing to spray a pesticide over parts of Santa Cruz County on Tuesday night were grounded due to fog, the third straight night that overcast weather has delayed the state's efforts to wipe out the light brown apple moth.

The state Department of Food and Agriculture had been planning to spray the pesticide, LBAM-F, over northern Monterey County since Sunday. The department changed its plans on Tuesday, saying it was going to try to finish the job first in Santa Cruz County before Friday night football games got under way, said Nancy Lungren, deputy secretary for the state Department of Food and Agriculture.

"Since Santa Cruz County is the most heavily infested area," Lungren said, "we've decided we were going to start here, then go back to Monterey County, weather permitting," said Lungren, who along with Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura set