

Moth spray set for June 1

Treatment may
also include
stingless wasps

By **BRIAN SEALS**

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✓ Light brown apple moth
SANTA CRUZ — In the face of lawsuits and swelling opposition from environmental groups, the state said Wednesday it plans to resume aerial spraying June 1 in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties in its bid to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

This time around, the pheromone that will be sprayed may be used in conjunction with setting loose stingerless wasps that target the apple moth's eggs.

The wasp would be released at 1 million per square mile, which would be done in the spring in advance of the aerial spraying, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Santa Cruz and Monterey counties along with San Francisco are scheduled to possibly get the wasp treatment, the CDFA said.

Aerial spraying is also planned in August for San Francisco and areas of Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo and Marin counties. At last count, Jan. 25, 4,000 moths had been found in San Francisco County, 985 in Monterey County and 10,775 in Santa Cruz County.

The spray releases a pheromone that works by confusing the moth's mating cycle. It doesn't actually kill the moth.

Just what type of pheromone will be used this June remains to be seen, said CDFA spokesman Steve Lyle.

See **MOTH** on **PAGE A4**

Light brown apple moth

WHEN: The state plans to resume aerial spraying June 1 in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties in its bid to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

WHAT: This year, the pheromone that will be sprayed may be used in conjunction with setting loose stingerless wasps that target the apple moth's eggs.

PRODUCT: The CDFA is looking for products that last longer than CheckMate OLR-F and CheckMate LBAM-F, which were used last year on the Central Coast and last 30 days.

SOURCE: California Department of Food and Agriculture