

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

### Exotic Insect Pest Detection

Our exotic insect pest detection trappers have removed 400 Gypsy Moth traps, and 152 Japanese Beetle traps, which were placed in May. By the middle of October, our trappers will remove the 725 Jackson traps that were placed in fruit trees for the detection of exotic fruit flies, such as Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Melon Fly and Oriental Fruit Fly.

Jackson traps are triangular, wax-coated paper traps, which contain a cotton wick that is impregnated with a lure or pheromone to attract the various fruit flies. The Jackson traps are serviced every two weeks, along with the Gypsy Moth and Japanese Beetle traps. The fruit fly traps are relocated every six weeks, so the trap will be in the optimal host tree.

Our trappers also serviced 150 McPhail traps every week, which are large glass jars, which contain yeast in water to attract a number of different fruit flies.

We trap for these exotic insect pests each year starting in May, and ending in October. Our trapping program provides us with early detection of exotic insect pest populations. An infestation of fruit flies would cause major damage to our local fruit crops, both commercial and backyard. The fruit would be unusable and would result in millions of dollars in damage.

The Gypsy Moth has become established in many states and causes major damage by defoliating forest trees. The Japanese Beetle

has become established in the Eastern United States, and is a serious pest of turf, roses, and other ornamentals.

### Vine Mealybug (VMB) Update

Vine Mealybug program coordinator Jim Raisner reports that program assistants Richard Opbroek and Art McLaughlin have placed 299 additional VMB traps throughout Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Wineries Association and the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association provided the funds to place the additional traps. The traps were placed in September, and were removed the week of October 11, 2004.

Sonoma County grape growers themselves are trapping 360 locations and have placed 4,000 traps to date. The growers are placing more than one trap per site, and have replaced them every two weeks, since June. These trap numbers do not include traps placed and maintained by the Carneros VMB group. The Carneros group has a local program in place for the detection of VMB.

There has been one new confirmed female VMB infestation, which is adjacent to other confirmed female infestations. We hope to have the results of this year's VMB trapping program available at our December grower workshop.

The University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor Dr. Lucia Varela and her crew have been responsible for reading the VMB traps this season.

## December Grower Workshop

Our annual grower continuing education workshop will be held on Thursday, December 2, at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building, located at 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. with check in starting at 8:00 a.m. The workshop will provide growers and license holders with one hour of continuing education in laws and regulations, and one hour of other continuing education hours.

### Workshop Schedule:

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:05 Introduction:  
Stefan Parnay, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

9:05 – 9:10 Year-End Review:  
Lisa Correia, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

9:10 – 9:30 Pesticide Laws and Regulation Update:  
Sue Ostrom, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

9:30 – 9:50 Managing Ground Squirrels:  
Pete Albers, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

9:50 – 10:00 Break

10:00 – 10:35 What To Expect When We Conduct An Application Inspection:  
Joseph Gray, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

10:35 – 11:05 Vine Mealybug (VMB) Update:  
Jim Raisner, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist  
Dr. Lucia Varela, Univ. of CA Cooperative Extension

11:05 – 11:10 Close  
Stefan Parnay, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Growers and license holders with questions regarding the training can call our office at (707) 565-2371. No reservations required.

## New Location For Plastic Recycle

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will hold our annual fall plastic recycle day on October 27, this year. Our recycler has requested some changes be made to our recycling program. In order to comply with these requests; **there will be only one collection site for our fall event.** The collection site will be the **Sonoma County Healdsburg Corporation Yard**, which is located at 17270 Healdsburg Ave, at Alexander Valley Rd. in Healdsburg. Take Hwy. 101 to Lytton Springs exit turn right on Healdsburg Ave., and then left on Alexander Valley Rd. The corporation yard is on the left, approximately 0.1 mile. This site is actually across the street from the former collection site at the Healdsburg Transfer Station. The event will be held on October 27, 2004, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This event is open to growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Plastic containers ranging in size from 1 pint to 55 gallons will be accepted.

### Containers must be:

- Triple rinsed, punctured and dry
- Plastic lids must be removed
- **All label booklets and plastic sleeves must be removed** from containers before recycling, glued labels are ok.
- If possible, No cardboard boxes
- Please – No PVC pipe, plastic tubing or containers that have held motor oil
- For up-to-date information on container recycling go to [www: acrecycle.org](http://www.acrecycle.org)

This year marks 10 years of recycling plastic containers in Sonoma County. The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the Sonoma County Public Works Division and Western Ag Plastics sponsor this event. For additional information call Pete Albers at (707) 565-2371.