

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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### Exotic Pest Detection Trapping

Summer is approaching, and with it comes the start of trapping for exotic insect pest. We will have three trappers working full-time and one part-time to set traps. There will be 425 Medfly, 150 McPhail, 150 Oriental Fruit Fly, 150 Melon Fly, 400 Gypsy Moth, and 152 Japanese Beetle traps deployed and serviced.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture as well as County Agricultural Commissioners work very hard to keep exotic insect pests from entering California. Sometimes these pests do get in. They can get in through smuggled illegal fruit, people bringing fruit or other articles in from infested areas without realizing it, and through other means. The trapping program is designed to detect exotic insect pests before they build up their populations to the point that eradication would be impossible.

If exotic insect pests were able to become established in Sonoma County they would not only impact our agriculture, but also cause backyard fruit to be unusable, kill turf lawns, and defoliate trees.



### Plastic Container Recycle

On April 27, 2005, we held our spring plastic pesticide container recycling event at the Healdsburg County Corporation Yard. Fifty participants took part in this event. The recycling event was open to all growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Containers ranging in size from 1 quart to 55 gallons were collected. Participants in this event were able to recycle 8,000 pounds of plastic containers that otherwise would have ended up in a landfill.



### Certified Producer's Certificate Renewal

In order to sell at certified farmers' markets you must renew your Certified Producer's Certificate (CPC).

If you have **no** changes or notarized agreements to provide us, simply phone our office to renew for 2005. Otherwise, you need to do one of the following:

## Certified Producer's Certificate Renewal (Cont.)

- If you are a certified producer with a partnership or lease agreement, you must provide us with a notarized copy of the partnership or written lease agreement. If you have already submitted these agreements, there is no need to resubmit unless there are changes to the agreements or the agreements have expired. If there are any changes to either agreement, a notarized copy of the agreement with the changes, must be submitted.
- Carefully review your 2004 certificate and **make any necessary changes, additions, or deletions on your copy of 2004 CPC**. If you are growing a commodity on more than one production site, each site along with the commodity, commodity amount grown, harvest season, and estimated production amount must be listed on a separate line on your CPC. After reviewing and amending your 2004 CPC copy; mail, fax, or bring it to our office along with any required agreements.

Certificates will not be issued without the proper notarized agreements. After your renewal request is received, you will be notified when your new certificate is ready to be issued. Please allow one to two weeks for processing your CPC. The person whose name is on the CPC **must** come in to our office to complete a questionnaire (this is new), sign the CPC, and pay the \$50.00 fee.

When selling for another certified producer, a written authority must be provided to our office. A certified producer can only sell for two other producers in a 12-month period. If you have authorized other CPC holders to sell for you, you must list them on your CPC.

## Vine Mealybug Program for 2005

### Compliance Agreements

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is discontinuing the use of compliance agreement letters in the event of an infestation of Vine Mealybug (VMB). Our office believes the goal of preventing the spread of VMB can best be achieved in a non-regulatory environment and that growers with infestations should communicate with their neighbors and wineries to contain the pest. Our office feels that the growers can best be served by facilitating this communication and by providing information to them on the Best Management Practices for controlling the VMB.

### Trapping

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will be implementing a short term trapping program in May and June. For the past two years, growers have been trapping with the help of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). This trapping has produced a number of areas in the county where male VMB have been found which are not near known infestations. We will be placing traps in vineyards within approximately half mile of these "male only" sites in an attempt to locate the associated infestations.

Growers are encouraged to trap for VMB in their vineyards. However, they will need to be able to "read" the traps themselves, or obtain the services of someone trained and willing to do so. The Sonoma County Grape Growers Association (SCGGA) is making efforts to have resources available to the industry. Growers planning to trap this year are urged to contact the SCGGA.

## Vine Mealybug Program for 2005 (Cont.)

Other options may include contacting your pesticide dealer or forming an area grower's group who could hire someone trained to "read" traps. In addition, UCCE provided training to industry members to enable them to "read" the traps.

After a trap has been "read" and determined to contain either grape mealybug or VMB, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office can send it to CDFA to be confirmed (this can only be done by dissection at the lab). The trap must have the suspect clearly marked and have the grower's name, address, and phone number on it.



**HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY**

