

Postcards Ask for Public's Help in Detecting Diaprepes Root Weevils

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In an August 23, press release the California Department of Food and Agriculture announced the mass mailing of more than 1.7 million postcards to California residents asking for their help in detecting Diaprepes root weevils, a destructive pest responsible for quarantines in Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Diego County.

The postcards have been sent to targeted zip codes this summer in 29 counties including Sonoma County: as far north as Shasta County, and as far south as San Diego County. Zip codes were selected based on conditions similar to those where the root weevil has already been detected: a high volume of new construction and a large number of specimen trees brought in for landscaping purposes.

A link to the postcard is featured here: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/exec/pa/pdf/diaprepescardaug06.pdf>

Diaprepes root weevils are native to the Caribbean, have generally infested Florida, and have also infested a part of Texas. Adult weevils feed on the leaves of plants and their larvae underground on plant roots. Left unchecked, the pest could damage urban and rural landscaping, the nursery industry, and significant portions of California's fruit and vegetable crops, including citrus, a favorite of the pest.

Diaprepes root weevils are black with distinctive orange, yellow, or gray markings on their backs. For more information, please link to CDFA's web site, www.cdffa.ca.gov, and to report suspicious bugs, please call

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BUG?

DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES



Photos by John Kabashima

The diaprepes root weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviatus*, feeds on about 270 different plants including citrus, hibiscus, avocado, loquat and oak. This pest is a significant threat to both urban and agricultural trees and plants. Adult weevils feed on the leaves of plants and their larvae move underground to feed on plant roots. The larvae can encircle or "girdle" the root systems of trees, cutting off the supply of water and nutrients, eventually killing the host plant. The California Department of Food and Agriculture needs your help to find this pest. If you have seen this weevil or collected a sample (in a small jar or plastic bag), please report it by calling 1-800-491-1899.

www.cdffa.ca.gov

DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES DIAPREPES



ACTUAL SIZE

CALL 1-800-491-1899

Olive Fruit Fly Control

New labeling has been registered for GF-120 NF Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait (GF-120). The new labeling allows GF-120 to be used on additional commodities not previously included on the label. The new labeling allows use on any tree, fruit, nut, vine, vegetable or food crop, and ornamentals.

GF-120 has been used for treating olive trees for Olive Fruit Fly. However, olive trees were not listed on GF-120 label, so growers and olive tree owners could only apply it under a Section 18 label. This included obtaining a Private Applicator Certificate, a Restricted Materials Permit, and submitting Notices of Intent prior to applying the product.



Commercial olive growers (that sell fruit or oil) are required to have an Operator Identification Number and report use of the product monthly.

Non-commercial growers (who do not sell the fruit or oil) are not required to obtain an Operator Identification Number or report use of the product.

Growers who currently have product with the old labeling may obtain a copy of the supplemental label from their pesticide dealer. Growers are required to have this supplemental label on-hand while applying the GF-120.

If you have any questions you can contact the Agricultural Commissioner's Office for more information, 707 565-2371.



Olive Fruit Fly Description:

- ❖ The adult olive fruit fly is approximately 5 mm long
- ❖ The head is yellowish to light brown
- ❖ The thorax is dark brown with three darker parallel lines
- ❖ The abdomen is pale brown with three pairs of black bands
- ❖ Dark spot at the apex the clear wings
- ❖ Maggots (larve) are yellowish-white

Pest Control Management Update Class

In the spring and fall of each year our office has helped put on a pest management class at Santa Rosa Junior College (Ag. 170). Several speakers are chosen to give presentations on a wide variety of pest related topics. This class provides an excellent opportunity for growers, pest control operators, pest control advisors, and maintenance gardeners to obtain continuing education hours for their licenses or certificates.

October 13 and 14 are the dates for the class this 2006 Fall semester. You must register for the class through Santa Rosa Junior College by telephoning 527-4011 or on-line at: www.santarosa.edu.

If you have questions about the class, please call Pete Albers at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office (707) 565-2371.

It's that Time Again, State License Renewal

Don't wait until it's too late; get your continuing education hours early!

Licensees whose last names begin with A-L and businesses whose names begin with A-L expire this year on December 31, 2006.

Keep an eye out for your license renewals to appear in the mail. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) typically will send out license renewal materials starting in September. Get your application for renewal back early to ensure you will have it processed in time to register with the county for 2007.

DPR has posted a list of approved continuing education classes available throughout the state on their website at - www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/classes.htm