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# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◊ LBAM Update
- ◊ Pesticide Container Recycling
- ◊ Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Use in Wineries
- ◊ Dormant Insecticide Applications



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## Update on Light Brown Apple Moth

Nine Light Brown Apple Moths (LBAM) were discovered in pheromone traps placed in Sonoma County between November 5th and 19th. Eight of the LBAMs were detected in the Carneros region, including one in the existing quarantine area near Ramal Road and one in the previously quarantined area near Boyes Hot Springs which had restrictions lifted mid-October. One moth was detected near a nursery just south of Sebastopol.

At this time, the anticipated response by CDFA includes:

- ∞ Deploying additional pheromone traps surrounding new finds in order to pin point and monitor LBAM populations. These traps will be deployed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- ∞ Creating new state quarantine area(s) and/or expanding existing quarantine area in the Carneros region.
- ∞ Considering eradication options for the Carneros region. At this time,

the finds in Sebastopol and Boyes Hot Springs would not prompt an eradication response under CDFA's protocol.

The LBAM is a native pest of Australia. It feeds on over 250 plant species including: grapes, tree fruits, vegetables, field crops, ornamental plants, and trees such as oaks, pine, and redwood. CDFA estimates the impact on production costs of California crops could top \$100 million per year.

For ongoing detailed information about LBAM go to:

[http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)

Or contact our staff at: (707) 565-2371.



## Plastic Container Recycling

On November 5, 2008, the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office held a plastic pesticide container recycling event at the County Corporation Yard in Healdsburg. This event was sponsored by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). 60 growers participated in this recycling event where plastic pesticide containers ranging in size from 1 quart to 55 gallons were collected. The recycling event was open to all growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. The next event will be held in the Spring of 2009.

# Compressed Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) Use in Wineries



Compressed sulfur dioxide when added as a sanitizer to empty barrels, tanks, corks, etc., is considered a pesticidal use. The only sulfur dioxide that can be legally used in this manner is The Fruit Doctor, Snowden Enterprise, Inc (EPA Registration Number 11195-1). Substances used as a pesticide must be labeled for pesticidal use and registered through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The Fruit Doctor is the only compressed sulfur dioxide pesticide labeled to be used to sanitize barrels, corks, etc. Any other chemical used to sanitize barrels, tanks, corks, etc., is an illegal use.

Compressed sulfur dioxide bubbled into wine or into water to form a liquid solution to add to wine is considered to be used to prevent oxidation of the wine and is not a pesticidal use. There is no requirement for a labeled product for this use.

The Fruit Doctor was recently designated as a Federally Restricted Material. This new designation requires users to obtain an Operator Identification Number and a Qualified Applicator Certificate. You can learn more about this change on our website at: [www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm](http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm) or by calling our office at (707) 565-2371.

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## Dormant Insecticide Applications

A new regulation regarding dormant insecticide applications took effect in 2006. This regulation was adopted to address runoff from crops carrying dormant applied insecticides into waterways.

This regulation prohibits any dormant insecticide applications if a storm event forecasted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Weather Service (NWS) is to occur within 48 hours following the application, or a storm event likely to produce runoff is forecasted by NOAA/NWS to occur within 48 hours following the application (any rain would cause runoff). Forecasts by NOAA/NWS can be found on the web at: [www.nws.noaa.gov/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/)

If the soil moisture is at field capacity but if there is no forecasted storm, dormant insecticide applications may be made if the following conditions are met:

- ☞ Only apply a dormant oil, or a biocontrol agent such as but not limited to spinosad or *Bacillus* sp.; or
- ☞ Only apply to a hydrologically isolated site; or
- ☞ Divert any runoff with an on-farm

recirculating system and/or contain and hold any runoff for 72 hours before releasing into a sensitive aquatic site

If none of the above conditions can be met, the following restrictions apply:

- ☞ The operator of the property to be treated shall obtain a written recommendation from a licensed pest control advisor (PCA) prior to the application; and
- ☞ The application shall not be made within 100 feet of any sensitive aquatic site; and
- ☞ Wind speed shall be 3-10 miles per hour (mph) at the perimeter of the application site as measured by an anemometer on the upwind side.

Aerial application of dormant insecticides shall only be allowed if:

- ☞ Soil conditions do not allow field entry, or approaching bloom conditions necessitate aerial application, a written recommendation is obtained from a PCA, a 100 foot buffer to sensitive aquatic sites is maintained, and the wind speed is measured at 3-10 mph.