

NO ADDITIONAL ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES FOUND THIS WEEK

NEWS RELEASE

Agricultural Commissioner's Office, (805) 681-5600

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Four weeks have now gone by since 3 Oriental fruit flies were found in the Hope Ranch area of Santa Barbara County. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) just released another week of insect trapping data with no additional flies being detected. Agricultural Commissioner William Gillette expressed cautious optimism saying "It's certainly good news, but it's too early to tell what it really means in terms of the pest population. Trapping and fruit cutting will continue". CDFA established an eight square-mile treatment and eradication program in Santa Barbara following the discovery of three Oriental fruit flies (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) on July 26 and 27.

CDFA began treatments on Saturday, July 29, in the 8-square-mile treatment zone. The treatment area consists of the initial detection sites in Hope Ranch as the epicenter and a buffer zone which extends approximately 1-1/2 miles in each direction from the find sites. The eradication process, known as "male annihilation," relies on a powerful attractant based on the pheromone that the female fly emits to attract mates. Each bait station consists of 5-8 milliliters (1-1.6 teaspoons) of material which includes the pheromone and a very small amount of the pesticide dibrom. These bait stations are applied in a spot of a gel-like binder about 8-12 feet high on utility poles and tree trunks. The application technique is designed to keep the bait out of the reach of passers-by and pets. Male flies are drawn to these bait stations and die after consuming the mixture. The drastic reduction of male fruit flies significantly reduces potential mates for female fruit flies, eliminating reproduction and ending the flies' life cycle. The bait stations will be reapplied approximately every 14 days for a minimum of two months. The applications could be extended if additional flies are found. The next treatment is scheduled for August 29th.

A map of the treatment area, the treatment schedule, and other information can be found on the Agricultural Commissioner's website <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>

For further information, please contact Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette or Deputy Commissioner Guy Tingos at (805) 681-5600. To contact CDFA directly about the treatment program, contact John Hooper at (916) 654-1211.

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