

ONE LIFE CYCLE COMPLETED
WITH NO ADDITIONAL ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES FOUND

NEWS RELEASE

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

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One full life cycle of the Oriental Fruit Fly has elapsed without additional finds since 3 Oriental Fruit Flies were found in the Hope Ranch area of Santa Barbara County in late July. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) just released another week of insect trapping data with no additional flies being detected. County Agricultural Commissioner William Gillette was hopeful saying "This is very good news. It appears that the eradication program is working".

Life cycle data is a key factor in determining the duration of the eradication effort. State protocol specifies that treatments must continue until 2 full life cycles of the pest have elapsed with no additional finds. The length of the fruit fly's life cycle is temperature dependent, speeding up in warm weather and slowing down in colder weather. Gillette said, "Under current conditions, the Oriental Fruit Fly life cycle is taking about 30 days to complete. It is in everyone's best interest that we complete this program before the weather cools off".

A minimum of 2 additional treatments are scheduled, one on September 12 and one on September 26. "CDFA is currently applying about 4.7 ounces or about a half a cup of naled per square mile in the treatment area", said Gillette. "Each treatment spot contains 1-3 drops of the insecticide. We are doing this to prevent pesticide use on a much larger scale later if we do not eradicate this pest now."

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 requests from the media, please contact Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette or Deputy Commissioner Guy Tingos at (805) 681-5600. To contact CDFA directly about the treatment program, contact Steve Lyle at (916) 654-0462.

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