

FINAL ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY TREATMENT UNNECESSARY!

NEWS RELEASE

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

September 22, 2006

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the USDA, announced today the completion of the treatment for the Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) in Santa Barbara. Both the CDFA and USDA protocols require treatment for OFF to last for two life cycles of the pest. A temperature-dependent computer model determines the length of the life cycles and this summer's warmer temperatures have shortened the time necessary to complete two life cycles. The life cycle protocols, developed by fruit fly experts and tested for many years, meet the international standards for treatment of this pest.

Mr. Gillette stated that the completion of the two life cycles means the bait application scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 will not be necessary and has been cancelled. He expressed his thanks to the citizens of Santa Barbara for their patience and understanding during this program. "Exotic pests such as Oriental Fruit Fly arrive in California by movement of exotic fruits or other host materials by people", said Mr. Gillette, "Keeping Santa Barbara and California free of exotic pests begins with the citizens. If we don't bring unwanted insect and disease pests to our community, we can avoid the need for eradication programs in the future".

Second district supervisor Susan Rose said "I am pleased that further treatment to eradicate the Oriental Fruit Fly has been deemed unnecessary at this time". The treatment area is within Supervisor Rose's district.

CDFA will continue to do intensive monitoring for the pest for about another month. If no flies are found, Oriental Fruit Fly will be declared eradicated in Santa Barbara County.

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 eradication program, contact Steve Lyle at (916) 654-0462.

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