

## New Pest Found in California



The Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) is an exotic pest recently discovered in California. Though not detected to date in Sutter County, the moth has been trapped in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco and San Mateo counties prompting the United States Department of Agriculture to implement a Federal Order to restrict the interstate movement of certain regulated articles, including nursery stock, cut flowers and greenery. This is an effort to contain the spread while eradication efforts are underway.

Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) is native to Australia and is also found in New Zealand, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The host range for LBAM is broad with more than 250 plant species known to be susceptible to attack by this pest. Major domestic hosts of concern are stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines and apricots), apples, pears, grapes, cherries and citrus. It is estimated based on damage caused by the moth in Australia that losses in California could top \$133 Million if it were to become established in the State.

Sutter County has a trapping program in place to detect LBAM. This is important to assure other States and Countries agricultural agencies that we are pest-free, preserving our growers and shippers access to their markets.

More information is available from the Sutter County Department of Agriculture at (530) 822-7500 or the links below.

CDFA

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/lbam\\_main.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/lbam_main.htm)

USDA

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/lba\\_moth/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/lba_moth/index.shtml)