
THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

Photo courtesy of Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture



Unfortunately, the Bay Area has once again been invaded by an exotic pest – the Light Brown Apple Moth. This little moth has created quite a news storm the last few months and has been responsible for the creation of a new quarantine in California.

LBAM is native to Australia and is found in New Zealand, Ireland, Great Britain, and Hawaii. It attacks more than 250 different kinds of plant species including ornamental plants, oak trees, stone fruits (apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, and plums), apples, pears, grapes, and citrus. LBAM larvae can destroy, stunt, and deform young seedlings; spoil the appearance of ornamental plants, and injure fruit.

The trade implications of LBAM are significant. A federal quarantine now regulates the movement of host commodities from regulated counties, including Santa Clara County. Mexico and Canada also imposed restrictions on specific commodities produced in California counties where LBAM has been found. To date, the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, Santa

Cruz, Solano, and Santa Clara all have areas under quarantine restrictions.

Restrictions:

The quarantine regulations limit the movement of all nursery stock and all host fruits and vegetables and plant parts within or from the quarantine areas.

It is safe for homeowners to consume fruits and vegetables on their property; we simply ask they do not transport it from their property. Homeowners should dispose of plant trimmings in their green waste recycling. The waste haulers in Santa Clara County are under compliance agreement with our office and will handle the material appropriately.

Description of the pest

The light brown apple moth could have been named the “little brown apple moth” because of its size. LBAM is small, as seen in the picture of a female moth next to the dime at the beginning of this article. Females are roughly a ¼ of an inch long and are larger than the males (pictured below).

LBAM is a tortricid moth and their larvae will roll leaves around themselves to create a protective shield so they can feed undisturbed. This leaf-rolling behavior makes it difficult for predators to reach the larvae and also presents a challenge for pesticide treatments.

Control

USDA entomologists think LBAM has been in this area for several years due to its widespread distribution. Once the infestation is delimited, USDA hopes to eradicate this pest by disrupting the moth’s mating with pheromones.



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Label Interpretations

Make sure you follow all directions!

Pesticide labels can sometimes be a bit confusing and difficult to interpret. If you should have questions about a pesticide label, give us a call! We'll look at the label and help you interpret the instructions. It is much easier for us to help you with a question BEFORE you make an application.

A local pest control business recently applied a pesticide in violation of the label. For your information, we would like to share with you some of the specifics of this incident.

A pest control company applied the product Termidor SC by BASF to control ants. The applicator applied the material into wall voids from the inside of the dwelling. The Termidor label gives the following use directions:

“For control of ants around houses and other structures, apply Termidor to the structure exterior as a low pressure coarse spray where ants enter the structure, trail around the structure or where they crawl and hide. Also spray Termidor around doors, windows, vents, pipes or any other exterior openings (including foundation cracks or drilled holes) where ants could enter the structure...Treat all areas where any wires (electrical, telephone or cable) enter the house. This treatment should be made as a general surface spray, crack and crevice spray or wall void application.”

The previous sentences in this paragraph talk about this product being applied outside. There is no mention of interior applications. The label therefore allows a crack and crevice treatment on the outside of a structure, but **not** to the interior of the structure.

There is a section in the Termidor label that allows for the material to be applied to the interior wall voids as a dry foam to control termites. The label states: “Only apply foam to wall voids where termites or termite damage are present.” This material can therefore only be applied to the interior cracks and crevices by a Branch 3 company in a dry foam solution to control termites. Termidor cannot be used in the interior of a structure in any other solution or for any other kind of pest.

Keep Your Distance!

Fumitoxin application requirements



For pest companies that apply Fumitoxin, it is important to follow all use requirements. The Fumitoxin label states:

“This product must not be applied into a burrow system that is within 15 feet of a building that is, or may be, occupied by humans, and / or animals especially residences.”

This statement would include any kind of structure that someone can enter and potentially spend time in, including sheds!

We recently had a company apply Fumitoxin within 2 feet of a large storage shed. Their reasoning was that the shed wasn't a dwelling so the application would be okay. However, the label states: “is or may be occupied by humans.” There is a potential danger to anyone that may occupy that structure due to the close proximity of the application. This use restriction would also include dog houses, hen houses, etc. So, be sure you keep your distance!

* **Reminder** - We also want to remind companies that there have been changes to the Fumitoxin label. Each use site needs a Fumigation Management Plan. Be sure you fill one out before you perform a Fumitoxin application.

The Fumitoxin label also requires a company to:

“provide the customer (e.g. tenant, homeowner, or property manager) with a MSDS or appropriate sections of the Applicator's Manual.”

If you have questions about what is required, call your District Biologist. We have found a number of companies out of compliance with these requirements.

From the Question File

Questions from Industry...

Can a 30-gallon pesticide drum be stored on its side and be dispensed by gravity? Is there a requirement that the drum be stored upright and dispensed with a hand pump?

When it comes to storage issues, if you have a 30-gallon drum that is designed to be stored on its side and dispensed by gravity, the regulations we enforce have no prohibition against storing these containers in such a manner.

However, we have learned that flammable and combustible materials cannot be stored on their side. There are also secondary containment requirements found in the fire code for any kind of material stored regardless if you store it upright or on its side. To ensure you have the proper secondary containment for your pesticide storage area, contact your local fire department for assistance.

Do backpack sprayers need an air-gap?

The answer to this question is “Yes”! The requirements for backflow prevention are found in California Code of Regulations Section 6610:

Each service rig and piece of application equipment that handles pesticides and draws water from an outside source shall be equipped with an air-gap separation, reduced pressure principle backflow prevention device or double check valve assembly...”

All service equipment must have an air-gap. When it comes to backpack and hand-can sprayers, it is impractical to attach a device to these containers to provide a mechanical air-gap. It is therefore acceptable to hold a hose and manually create an air-gap when filling these service containers.

It is not acceptable to set the hose on top of a backpack sprayer and walk away! About a year ago, we observed an applicator filling a backpack sprayer with water and he left the hose inside the backpack sprayer while he walked yards away to turn off the water. – (The company was fined for this infraction.) Make sure your applicators know this practice is unacceptable!

What code section covers service container labeling and what is required?

The code section covering service container labeling is California Code of Regulations Section 6678:

“Service containers, other than those used by a person engaged in the business of farming when the containers are used on the property the person is farming, shall be labeled with:

(a) The name and address of the person or firm responsible for the container;

(b) The identity of the pesticide in the container; and

(c) The word "Danger," "Warning," or "Caution," in accordance with the label on the original container.”

Giant Whitefly Parasitoids Are Coming to San Jose!



For those companies battling the giant whitefly, help is on the way! UC researchers have agreed to release some beneficial wasps in our County this summer. UC has released three species of wasps in southern California and one species in particular; *Idioporus affinis* has been found in high numbers. These wasps control the whitefly population by laying their eggs in whitefly larvae.

We hope to release some *Idioporus affinis* to several heavily infested plants in San Jose in the next few weeks. With some luck, this beneficial wasp will disperse throughout the County in the coming years.

Question Corner

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to suggest a subject for an article, please drop us a note at:

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