

Are they spraying for the moths I see around my oak tree?

NO! They are spraying a biochemical pesticide for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)... not the Oak Moth.

Why are they doing this?

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has decided that the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) has suddenly become an issue of National Security and that it threatens the survival of California agriculture. They are fearful that the moth "might" or "could" cause damage despite the fact that the moth has been living here for several years and has still caused NO damage. They have stated that it's an emergency, which has allowed them to bypass and ignore certain laws that require proper oversight and review of such programs. The spray operation is an extreme overreaction by State and Federal Governments.

Where did they spray last & what was sprayed?

In the beginning of September 2007, they sprayed urban areas of Monterey with CheckMate OLR-F. At the end of October 2007, they sprayed urban areas of Monterey with CheckMate LBAM-F. At the beginning of November 2007, they sprayed urban areas of Santa Cruz and Salinas with CheckMate LBAM-F. Both CheckMate products are made by Suterra LLC. The State and CDFA have indicated that they might use an entirely different product in the beginning of 2008.

Will the CDFA spray again?

Yes. They have indicated that they will spray every 30 days for 9 months straight of every single year until two life cycles after the very last moth is found. CDFA is withholding the exact dates for when the next aerial biochemical spray begins in 2008. But they have indicated that they will start again in either late February or in March of 2008 and then spray every 30 days until November of 2008. Then they will begin again in 2009.

Why weren't we notified?

CDFA says, "residents in the affected area will be notified in writing at least 72 hours prior to the aerial application of the pheromone." But as many of you know, they did not notify everyone as they said they would and as is required.

Is the stuff they are spraying safe?

These microencapsulated biochemical pheromone pesticides are new. Many people have reported adverse reactions to the pesticide. Since this product has been granted an emergency exemption, no long-term tests or studies have been conducted concerning health effects. The short-term, long-term, or accumulative effects are unknown. However, both CheckMate OLR-F and LBAM-F warning labels plainly state, "*Hazard to Humans and Domestic Animals. Harmful if absorbed through the skin. Causes moderate eye irritation. Avoid contact with skin eyes or clothing. Harmful if inhaled. Avoid breathing vapor or spray mist. Environmental Hazard - Do not apply to water or areas where surface water is present*".

What are the ingredients in 'CheckMate OLR-F' and 'CheckMate LBAM-F'?

Below is partial list of ingredients. Apparently, trademark laws restrict the full disclosure of all the ingredients.

CheckMate LBAM-F - Partial ingredients list: (E)-11-Tetradecen-1-yl Acetate, (E,E) -9,11 Tetradecadien-1-yl Acetate, Crosslinked polyurea polymer, Butylated Hydroxytoluene, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Tricaprylyl Methyl Ammonium Chloride, Sodium Phosphate, Ammonium Phosphate, 1,2-benzisothiazoli-3-one, 2-hydroxy-4-n-octyloxybenzophenone - SOURCE: Santa Cruz Sentinel - California Department of Agriculture

CheckMate OLR-F - According to the EPA, some of the key ingredients are: (Z)-11-Tetradecenyl acetate, 11-Tetradecen-1-ol, acetate, (E)-. Inert Ingredients are water, polyvinyl alcohol, tricaprylyl methyl ammonium chloride, sodium phosphate, and polymethylene polyphenyl isocyanate. *[Over 2.5 weeks after this ingredients list was released to the Santa Cruz Sentinel and published, and right after a Monterey judge issued a Temporary Restraining Order against the aerial spraying because of concerns regarding these ingredients, the EPA then came out and stated that this list of ingredients was inaccurate. Do you actually believe them? Some of the above ingredients have a negative effect identical to what many Monterey residents had experienced after they were sprayed.]*

What will CDFA spray on the people next year?

CDFA will not tell us what new biochemical pesticide they will unleash on the people in 2008.

Why should I care if they spray?

There are many reasons to be outraged or concerned about the aerial spray plans. First of all, the LBAM situation is not an "emergency" situation. The moth has been here in California for several years and has not caused a single documented case of crop damage. Because of the false emergency status that the state has claimed, their aerial spray program has been able to bypass needed oversight and reviews that are required by law. Not only has the spray program been able to bypass these laws, but the new biochemical pesticide products that they are spraying on us have also been allowed to bypass more thorough testing usually done by the EPA for such products. Suterra, the manufacturer of these products, has admitted that no studies have been done to determine the long-term health effects of the products that CDFA is using for the program. WE are the guinea pigs. We have now already been exposed to the spray and beginning next February, we will be sprayed every 30 days for 9-10 months straight... and then again the next year too, and then the year after that as well. Being repeatedly sprayed with any biochemical pesticide is bound to have a negative accumulative effect, whether it be to our health, our resources, or to our environment and natural eco-systems. This puts every living thing in all of the targeted communities at risk. The program, if allowed to continue, sets a very dangerous precedent for us in the future and for our future generations. It is our constitutional right to not be used as involuntary test subjects for any experiment. And since there is no scientific evidence or studies at all to show that aerial applications of man-made, synthetic pheromones has ever been successful in the eradication of any pest, this is truly an "experiment" that we are being involuntary subjected to.

What about our farms?

Many farmers and growers openly state that the LBAM is not a big threat nor has it done any physical damage. The damage that our farmers and nurseries have been inflicted with is financial losses due to the drastic and unwarranted restrictions and quarantines put in place by the CDFA.

Are there alternatives to aerial spraying?

Many experts, farmers, and citizens agree that there are safe alternatives to aerial spraying. A few safer methods of control are sticky traps, twist-ties, and sterile moths. Sticky traps have been used quite successfully to catch good quantities of the moth populations. In fact, it is the method that CDFA uses to estimate how many moths are in a certain area. But the CDFA has stated and admitted that these traps will not work as well after aerial spraying takes place... yet they still plan to use the traps to estimate the moth populations. There are safe alternatives to the aerial spraying of biochemical pesticides onto urban populations. However, CDFA and USDA will not even consider using any of the safer options as a primary method.

Can this be stopped?

Absolutely! There are currently three court cases challenging the legality of their spray operation. However this is not enough. We need your help. You must educate yourself and then help to educate everyone you know. The only real chance for this to get stopped is for you to get involved and to take action! Please visit www.lbamspray.com to learn how to defend yourself, your family, and your community from the CDFA's unwarranted attack. Together we can and will stop the aerial pesticide spray!

For more information, please visit: www.lbamspray.com