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News and Information for March 2018

Local Sterile Mediterranean Fruit Fly Detection

On Wednesday, February 21st, one of our Agricultural Assistants detected a suspect Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) in a trap placed in the El Centro urban area. The fruit fly was examined in our office and identified as a suspect sterile Medfly. It was then sent to and examined by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) state laboratory in Los Alamitos, California. The CDFA laboratory identified and confirmed the suspect as a sterile Medfly which are found to contain a florescent dye on their body. Sterile Medflies are released by CDFA in Medfly control programs, and are coated with a dye to assist state personnel in identifying sterile flies from wild fruit flies. The Medfly is known to attack more than 250 kinds of fruits, nuts, and vegetables, many of which are grown in home gardens and orchards.

ACP-HLB Risk Survey along the International Border

In January, we started our second ACP-HLB Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)-Huanglongbing (HLB) Risk Survey cycle along the international border. Second cycle surveying was completed this month. During the survey every property with a citrus tree is visited and trees are inspected for ACP and HLB symptoms. All samples submitted from previous cycles have been negative for HLB. Samples from the second survey cycle are still pending results.

Worker Protection Standard Phase II:

Phase II went into effect March 1, 2018. These changes primarily covered training requirements for pesticide handlers and field workers. An updated template for a Handler Training Program has been uploaded to our website ([http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/docs/pue/Handler Training Program 2018-03-07.pdf](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/docs/pue/Handler_Training_Program_2018-03-07.pdf)). The Pesticide Safety Information Series (A-8/A-9) is under development by DPR and should be available in mid-April. Upon completion, CAC will place the documents on our website and advertise their availability.

Ag Safe – Train the Trainer Workshops

Ag Safe has published and shared their calendar for Pesticide Safety Instructor Training Workshops (aka Train the Trainer) (<http://www.agsafe.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/PS-Spring-2018-Classes.pdf>). There will be a training held in Imperial on April 17th. If interested, it is encouraged that you sign up early to save your spot. It is important that previously trained trainers attend one of these workshops to be current with the changes that were implemented in Phase II of the Worker Protection Standard.

Pesticide Use Near Schools – Grower Notification to Schools

Grower notification to schools regarding pesticide use within ¼ mile of schools and licensed daycares is due on April 30th. CAC staff is available to assist and answer questions, upon request.

Container Recycling

We are in the process of coordinating the next empty pesticide container recycling event. The location may change from the previous location at the fairgrounds, so please review outreach material carefully for the location. We hope to start the event by the last week of March or early April.