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San Joaquin County Trapping Program Detects European Grapevine Moth Pest

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) have confirmed the detection of two European grapevine moths (EGVM), *Lobesia botrana* that were trapped by San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner staff on August 2 and 4, in a vineyard east of Lodi. EGVM is an invasive quarantine pest new to California that can cause substantial damage to vineyards and is under intensive eradication in other parts of the state.

Finding two moths in the same area will likely trigger an agricultural quarantine in the Lodi area to prevent spread of EGVM to non-infested areas. Typically, the EGVM quarantine area encompasses a five mile radius around the find site. In the very near future, CDFA and USDA officials will establish the quarantine boundaries.

The trap was part of a statewide program, in conjunction with USDA and CDFA to detect this invasive moth. "As a result of these finds, our local inspectors and state staff will place nearly 2,400 traps in commercial vineyards within a 97 square mile area around the discovery," says Scott Hudson, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner. "It is critical we determine if there are any more of these pests in our area." Prior to this detection of EGVM, San Joaquin County had approximately 2,200 EGVM traps in place throughout commercial vineyards in the county.

European grapevine moth was first detected in Napa County in September of 2009. Since that time, EGVM has also been found in Sonoma, Solano, Mendocino, Merced and Fresno counties where grower pest management efforts are underway. EGVM is a grape pest of significant economic importance in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, southern Russia, Japan and, more recently, Chile. The larva feed on grape flowers and developing fruit. Second and third generations cause the most damage by direct feeding on mature grape berries and indirectly by predisposing the crop to fungal infections, like grey mold (caused by *Botrytis cinerea*.) Damage is greatest in grape cultivars that have compact clusters or are sensitive to rot.

If you find a suspect moth, please contact the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (209) 953-6000



EGVM Adult moth about ¼ inch long



EGVM larvae showing variable color
Older stages are darker in color
Up to ½ inch long