

Vine Mealybug Update – 2006

(Submitted by the Lake County Department of Agriculture)

Another year of trapping for the Vine Mealybug (VMB) has come to a conclusion. No male VMB's were trapped countywide (again) during this year's summer and fall trapping season. The increased trapping we had in the vicinity of the finds from two years ago also came up negative for VMB. This is very encouraging, as it tends to indicate that an active infestation has not been established.

The response from the grape grower community, as far as deploying and returning VMB traps that are made available by the Department of Agriculture, was down compared to last year. There were 13 growers, representing 2400 + acres, who had 91 traps deployed at any given time during the season. We sincerely hope that grape growers will continue to participate in this program next year (or start next year if you didn't participate this past season). **The traps, pheromone, and reading of the traps are all free and it serves as a valuable tool to detect a potentially devastating pest early, thereby increasing the chances of control and possible eradication.** The Department of Agriculture also deployed an additional 93 traps into roughly 73 different blocks for 49 more growers. This program covered 3200 + acres of vineyards.

The Dept. of Agriculture will continue to run a county-wide detection program and a focused delimitation program (around the previous find site) for this pest in 2007. If there are no finds in the delimitation area in 2007, that portion of the program will be ended. It is critical for each grower to participate in this program. Early detection of the VMB is very important, as there is a time lag between the initial introduction and our ability to detect its presence using the pheromone traps. The presence of VMB in Napa and Sonoma counties should be additional encouragement for growers to run some traps in their vineyards to check for this pest.

The Lake County UCCE office maintains a good resource of information about VMB on their website. Visit them at <http://celake.ucdavis.edu> and click on the Viticulture icon.

We look forward to working with the wine grape industry and the UCCE Viticulture Advisor next year to continue to improve our education, trapping, and detection efforts for this serious vineyard pest. Please contact

Chuck Morse at the Department of Agriculture at (707) 263-0217 with any questions, suggestions, or comments.