

## California Nursery Conference Presentation – A Grower’s Perspective

March 5, 2015 instilled **FEAR** into some California Nurseries that could potentially be affected by LBAM Quarantine. A new Regulatory Enforcement Protocol was set forth by CDFA which changed the LBAM Nursery Program as follows:

- Instead of waiting until the 2<sup>nd</sup> repeat positive detections to suspend the compliance agreement, it will now be suspended after the 1<sup>st</sup> repeat positive detection.
- Instead of the block of plants that the suspect was found in being placed on hold, now all nursery stock at the nursery will be placed on hold after the 1<sup>st</sup> repeat positive detection.
- Trace forward/backward will be done after the 1<sup>st</sup> repeat positive detection.
- Nursery Stock shipped under blue tag is required to be treated with a University of California Cooperative Extension recommended and USDA approved treatment efficacious against eggs and larvae during the next 30 day inspection cycle.
- If no non-adult/immature LBAM is detected in the next 30 day inspection cycle the restrictions are lifted and the LBAM program will follow-up with the nursery.

If after the above procedures have been implemented and a positive detection is discovered within six months, the nursery is now in a 2<sup>nd</sup> repeat positive detection status. The requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> repeat positive detection are the same except:

- Nursery stock shipped under blue tag is required to be treated with a University of California Cooperative Extension recommended and USDA approved treatment efficacious against eggs and larvae during the next 6 month inspection cycle, not 30 days.

LBAM Positive Nursery Stock Shipped to non-infested areas:

- Implement steps for repeat positive nursery on the first shipment detected with positive LBAM at the receiving destination.
- Implement a three strikes policy when there are three positive shipments within any 12 month period:
  - Compliance agreement revoked
  - Nursery stock is required to be shipped with an original quarantine certificate
  - Treatments are supervised by regulatory officials
  - Required to provide 72 hour advance notification to obtain certification.

It was at this point that growers who had compliance agreements started asking questions and voicing concerns about threats to their ability to ship product. These new protocols were effective on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Added to this scenario was the fact that USDA and CDFA funding for these services was running out and there were hot spots in Monterey and San Diego County which were requiring huge efforts to contain the pest. Quarantined areas

were growing larger-there was concern that whole counties could be quarantined without workable solutions.

**Grower Concerns:**

1. Ability to keep shipping jeopardized-enough compliance options for Nurseries in different phases of regulation
2. Customer Service – ability to compete
3. Cost of program
4. Availability of County Ag. Team to do necessary work/inspections
5. Over-use of same chemicals with resulting chemical resistance
6. Enough variety of chemicals that will work without damaging plants and which have lower REI's.

Cooperative dialogue between CDFA and involved nurseries/CANGC led to the creation of a Cut Flower and Nursery Working Group, which started meetings to provide some alternative protocols/solutions which would be acceptable to both USDA/CDFA as well as shipping nurseries. Problems currently under discussion and being addressed to come up with workable solutions are:

1. Continued free-from status for nurseries not in quarantined areas
2. Shipping free from plants protocols
3. Ways to minimize large scale use of chemicals to minimize worker/environment exposure.
4. Suitable approved arsenal of chemicals which allows rotation to minimize resistance and maintain plant quality. Current proposed/approved treatments do not provide enough flexibility and require a two-step spray process which limits ability to ship in customer required timelines.
5. Intra & inter-state shipments
6. Ways to reduce the cost of compliance both for CDFA & shipping nurseries

Concurrent with the CDFA Nursery Working Group, Sand Diego Farm Bureau formed a task force to work in concert with the CDFA Nursery Working Group. Their activities include the following:

**Goals:**

- Stop/slow the spread of LBAM in San Diego (eradication efforts, native parasitoid research study to limit populations)
- Develop a program where nurseries could continue to ship should we become quarantined
- Work towards a long term goal of deregulation

**Tasks:**

- Support and find funding for native parasitoid study – *completed, study in process*
- Support development of regulatory nursery treatment protocol – *protocol created, but not completed*

- **Submit exemption requests on Cactus & Succulents, Propagative Material and Palms – *completed, waiting for response from USDA***
- **Propose audit based, compliance agreement protocol for nurseries – *in process***

**Members of the Task Force include nursery representatives Matt Altman, Janet Kister, Fred Ceballos, Michael A. Mellano, and Mike Babineau. Also serving are Dustin Meador of the California Center for Advanced Horticultural Research, Bethke of UC Cooperative Extension, and Commissioner Ha Dang and Assistant Director Megan Moore of the County Department of Agriculture.**

**Progress for workable solutions continues with CDFA.**

# Stage 3 "Bad Actors"

## Light Brown Apple Moth Regulatory Protocol for Repeat Positive Nurseries

