Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Ask Laura Newsletter Column
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Q: What is one critical component of an effective organic or IPM approach to pest management?

A: Without a doubt, the proper identification of the insect, disease or weed is the first step and critical part to help make effective management decisions. A case in point is the light brown apple moth (LBAM), which is an important insect in our area and must be controlled when found in the field. Unfortunately there are many common look-alike larvae that can be misidentified as LBAM, and this may lead to unnecessary insecticide applications. Knowing how to identify it and other look-alike larvae can help make appropriate management decisions.

Q: How can I learn how to identify light brown apple moth in the field?

A: A new identification guide and online video is available called "**Field Identification Guide for Light Brown Apple Moth in Nurseries"** from UC IPM. The online training can be used for a quick training for field personnel anywhere with internet access. It is only 13 minutes long. The field guide could be handed out after the online training. With many useful images and simple descriptive keys, the guide could be taken into the field to help find and identify LBAM. A Spanish version of the online training is under development and soon will be available.

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Download the document and access the video training (under Emerging Pests in California) at: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.floriculture.html
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