

A Serious Insect Pest is Spreading in Sonoma County Vineyards and Backyard Grapevines

Homeowners can take steps to prevent its movement

If you have one or more grapevines in your yard, you should be concerned about European Grapevine Moth (EGVM). The immature stage of the moth is a larva (worm) that feeds *inside* grape berries. If “wormy” clusters go unnoticed this summer, the population will increase and more vines in your neighborhood or hobby vineyard will be infested next year.



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EGVM larvae are quite small and difficult to see in a grape cluster. The larva pictured is about $\frac{3}{8}$ ” long and is posed on top of a shriveled berry. A fully grown larva is $\frac{5}{8}$ ” long and darker colored. It will form a cocoon (pupa) that is only $\frac{1}{4}$ ” long located somewhere inside or near the grape cluster.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s office has placed “pheromone” traps in commercial vineyards and urban areas. Traps attract male moths and are a tool to learn if infestations are present. They are not designed to catch and remove all moths from a vineyard or neighborhood.

To determine if moths have been located near your property, view the maps at the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s webpage for homeowners:

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/homeowners.htm>

If your vine(s) are within 1000 meters (0.6 mile) from an EGVM trap that caught a moth, then take the following actions:

- **Immediately remove all clusters from your vines.** Place clusters in “yard waste” or garbage cans for weekly pickup. Keep can lids closed.
- **Do not attempt to compost grape clusters.** Do not add grape clusters to a pile of discarded fruit and vegetables from your garden.
- Grape clusters should not be removed from your property in any manner other than described above.

To learn more about EGVM, visit the following links:

- UC Cooperative Extension: <http://ucanr.org/egvm&leafrollers>
- Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioners Office:

http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/european_gv_moth.htm

Quick Facts

European Grapevine Moth

European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) is an introduced pest that was first verified in the United States in Napa County in October 2009 followed by Sonoma County in March 2010.

As of September 2010, moths have been trapped in eight counties. Napa is by far the most infested with over 100,000 moths trapped this year. Only 55 moths have been trapped in Sonoma to date. How the pest entered the US is not known.

EGVM is native to Mediterranean Europe and has been reported to be a serious pest in grapes in all European countries for well over 100 years.

It is also found in North and West Africa, the Middle East and eastern Russia. In 2008 it was reported in Chile. Grape growers in all of these countries use pesticides each year to control EGVM in order to produce a crop.

The larval stage (worms) is responsible for causing damage in grapes.

Larvae enter grape berries and can completely excavate the fruit. They also spin a web along the rachis and feed on berry surfaces. The cluster is fouled with webbing and excrement and becomes infected with fungi that rot the fruit.

Natural enemies (beneficial insects) will not control this pest.

Naturally occurring predators and parasitoids that attack EGVM are present in Europe however they do not reduce the pest's populations below damaging levels. Thus far, fewer natural enemies have been found in California.

When grapevines are present, EGVM is rarely found on other plants.

Larvae may feed on other fruits (cherry, plum, cane berries, etc.) and on olive flowers for a short period in the spring or summer; however they do not survive from one year to the next without grapes. They also do not eat vegetable fruits (tomato, squash, melon, etc.). EGVM larvae feed in grape flower clusters in the spring and berries in the summer; larvae do not feed on grape leaves.

Commercial grape growers in Sonoma County have treated for European Grapevine Moth if their vineyards are located within 1000 meters (0.6 mile) from a trap that caught a moth.

Homeowners with backyard grapevines or hobby vineyards can follow the steps described on the reverse to prevent this insect from spreading in Sonoma County.

See reverse for more information. If you have questions, call the University of California Cooperative Extension office in Sonoma County to speak to a Master Gardener. PH: 707-565-2608