




Tackling Invasive Pest and Disease Challenges

Santa Barbara County Department of Agriculture

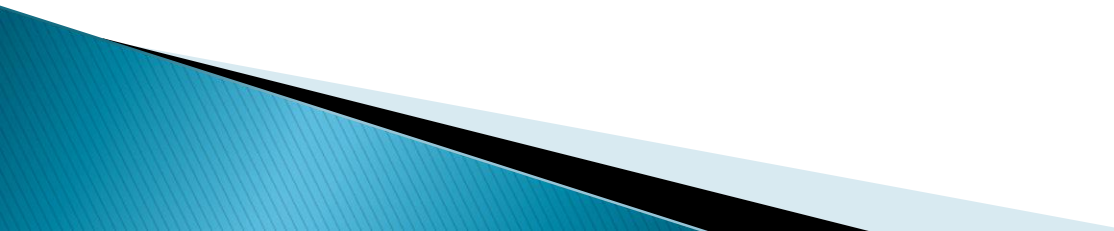
Cathy Fisher

Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights & measures

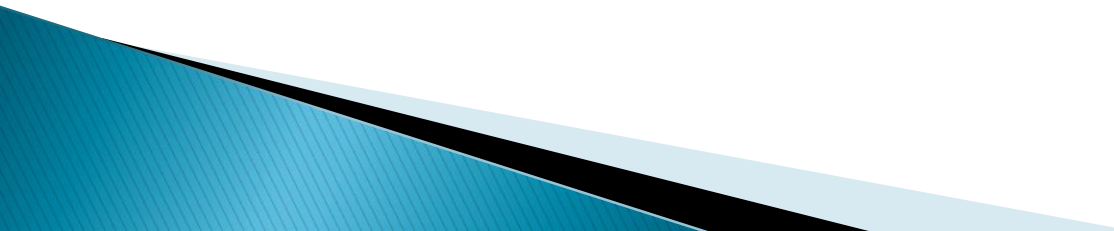
What Are Invasive and Exotic Pest & Diseases?

- ▶ Exotic pests are organisms that are introduced into an area beyond their natural range and become pests in the new environment.
 - ▶ Executive Order 13112 “Invasive species”
 - ▶ Also referred to as alien, non-native or introduced pests.
 - ▶ Unintentional and accidental introductions
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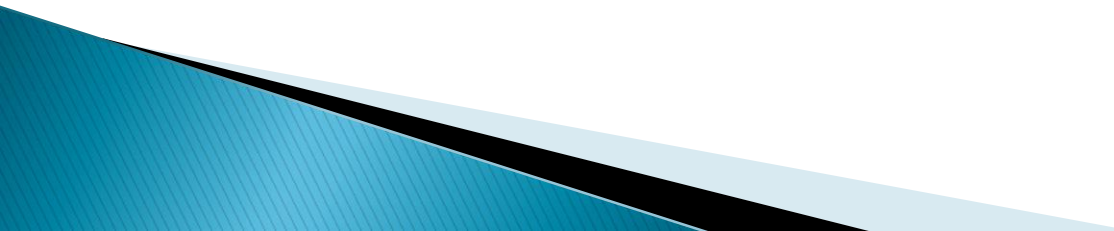
Common Traits

- ▶ Rapid reproduction, fast growth, wide dispersal, altering of growth or form to suit a particular habitat, tolerating a wide range of environmental conditions and the ability to feed on a variety of different foods.
 - ▶ Human activity of some kind that has transported them here unknowingly.
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Why are they a problem?

- ▶ Few natural enemies in their new location
 - ▶ Lead to population increases that can overwhelm native species.
 - ▶ Likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
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Preventing Invasive Pests and Diseases

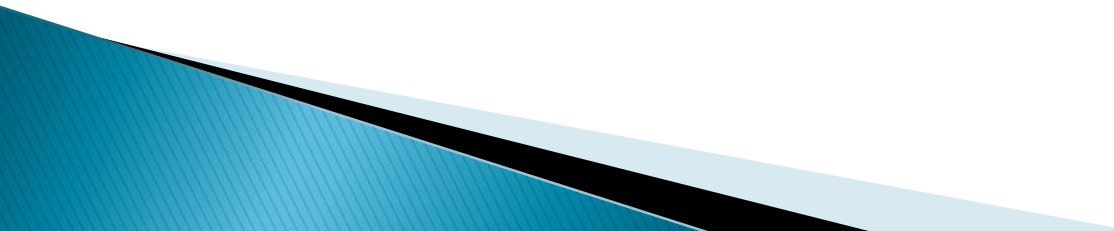
- ▶ Preventing the Introduction & Establishment of Invasive Species is Always the Best—*and Least Costly*—Method of Control.
 - ▶ California agricultural losses to exotic pests exceed \$3 billion annually.
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Target Pests and Diseases in California

- ▶ Africanized honeybee
- ▶ Asian Citrus Psyllid
- ▶ Asian longhorn Beetle
- ▶ Caribbean Fruit Fly
- ▶ Diaprepes root weevil
- ▶ European Grapevine Moth
- ▶ False Codling Moth
- ▶ Guava Fruit Fly
- ▶ Gypsy Moth
- ▶ Japanese Beetle
- ▶ Light Brown Apple Moth
- ▶ Mediterranean Fruit Fly
- ▶ Melon Fruit Fly
- ▶ Mexican Fruit Fly
- ▶ Oriental Fruit Fly
- ▶ Peach Fruit Fly
- ▶ Red Imported Fire Ant
- ▶ White Striped Fruit Fly



County Department of Agriculture

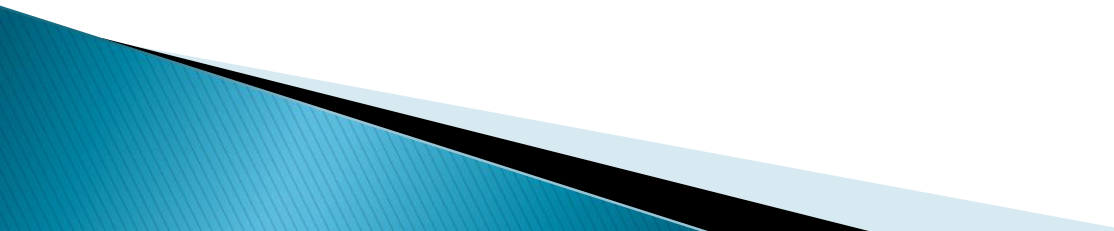
- ▶ March 14, 1881, the California Legislature passed “*An Act to Promote and Protect the Horticultural Interests of the State*”
 - ▶ In recognition of the significance horticulture provides to California's economy.
 - ▶ Once enacted, it began the regulation of agricultural activities at the county level.
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County Agricultural Commissioners.



- ▶ This law mandates Board of Supervisors to appoint a County Agriculture Commissioner (CACs).
- ▶ California is the only state that has individual county CACs
- ▶ Mission: Protect county agricultural resources, environment and public health from invasive pests.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

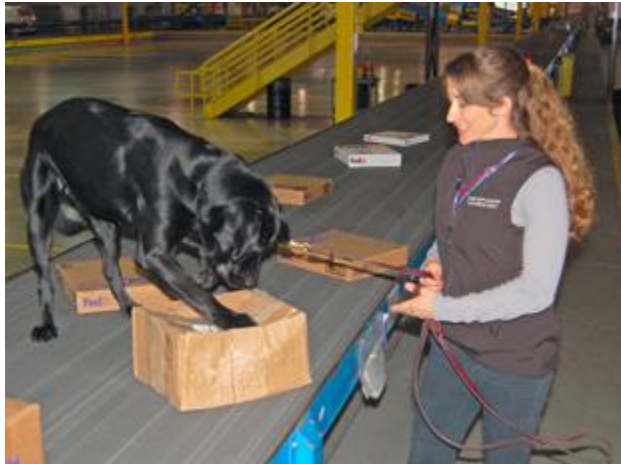
- ▶ 1924, the California Legislature passed a bill that mandates the Governor to appoint a Secretary of Agriculture.
 - ▶ Mission: “To serve the citizens of California by promoting and protecting a safe, healthy food supply, and enhancing local and global agricultural trade, through efficient management, innovation, and sound science, with a commitment to environment stewardship.”
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USDA

- ▶ USDA monitors the export of products from the U.S. through a standard set of regulations and policies
- ▶ Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS).
 - Ensuring the free flow of agricultural trade by keeping U.S. agricultural industries free from pests and diseases.
 - All imported agricultural products shipped to the U.S. from abroad meet the Agency's entry requirements to exclude pests and diseases.

Pest Prevention Programs

- ▶ Pest Detection
- ▶ Pest Management
- ▶ Pest Exclusion
- ▶ Pest Eradication



Light Brown Apple Moth Controversy in 2007

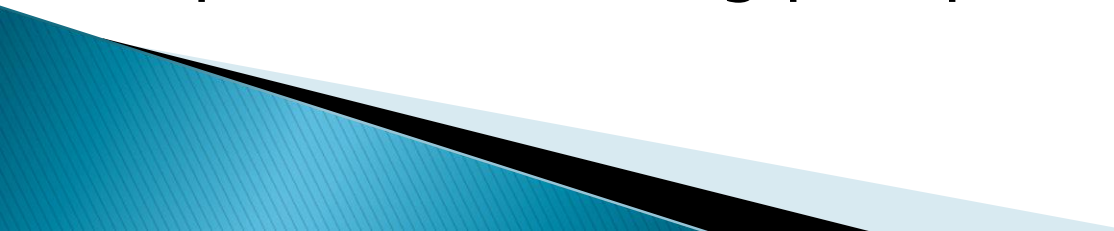
- ▶ Eradication program involving aerial spraying of a pheromone
- ▶ EPA granted a quarantine exemption request from the USDA.
- ▶ “Helping Our Peninsula’s Environment (HOPE) filed a lawsuit to halt the spraying program.
- ▶ Did not allow for public comment.



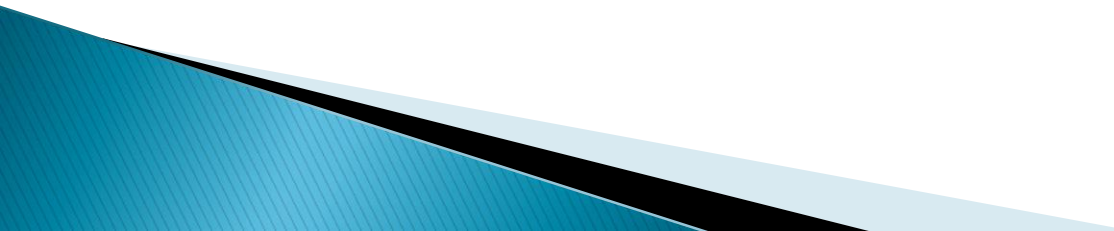
Effective ways to involve the public

- ▶ Alerting urban property owners to the problem of invasive species and educating them about the threat poses a big challenge.
 - Communicate in multiple languages
- ▶ The main routes non-native organisms take into the state are accidentally.
- ▶ Communication activities to educate property owners can assist in the response effort through increased cooperation, monitoring and reporting of invasive species to local and state agencies.

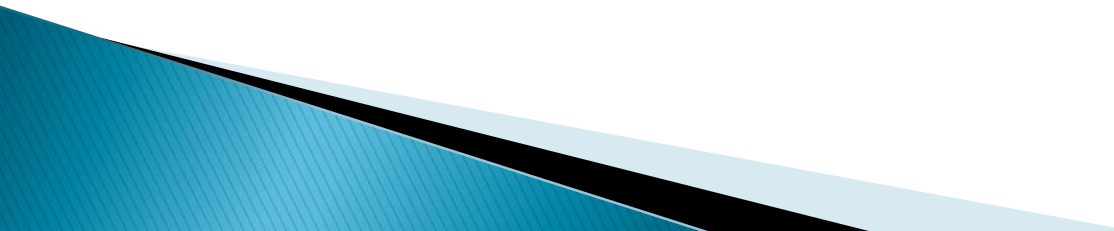
Involving the Public

- ▶ Those with responsibility for controlling or eradicating invasive pests need to work through and support local networks and they need to build relationships.
 - ▶ The public needs to be a partner in our efforts to respond to an invasive pest threat.
 - ▶ We need to figure out how we get to shared issues that the public cares about.
 - ▶ The community has to be heard and feel like a partner in solving pest problems.
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Other Stakeholders

- ▶ Local elected officials, community leaders, master gardeners, landscapers and businesses.
 - ▶ Growers
 - ▶ Environmental groups
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Communication

- ▶ Radio
 - AM 1440 today at 3:00 p.m.
 - ▶ T.V. and newspapers
 - ▶ E-newsletters
 - ▶ Blogs and websites
 - ▶ Ag Days
 - ▶ Master Gardeners
 - ▶ Videos
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Asian Citrus Psyllid & HLB

- ▶ ACP vectors HLB
- ▶ HLB is a deadly disease for citrus
- ▶ Public concerns about ACP/HLB:
 - Loss in property investment,
 - Ruin their fruit,
 - Damage a whole agricultural sector
 - Rapid spread that's hard to contain.
 - Economic impacts
 - Cost of food
 - No longer available



Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program

- ▶ CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org
- ▶ <http://www.californiacitrusthreat.com/>




Citrus Pest & Disease
Prevention Program

Protecting Bee Health.
The California Department of Food and Agriculture and citrus growers are committed to protecting bees and other pollinators while also protecting citrus trees – a vital part of California’s landscape and economy. CIFA communicates with local beekeepers and employs spotters to locate bees and mitigate hazards. Asian citrus psyllid treatment crews use stringent safeguards to protect bee health, including only using products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and applying treatments safely and according to label instructions. These same safety measures should be used if you elect to proactively treat your personal citrus tree. Talk to your local nursery or garden center for more information about the best way to protect your citrus from the Asian citrus psyllid.

Dear Santa Barbara County Resident:
Santa Barbara County residents have been enjoying fresh, California-grown citrus fruit for generations. Unfortunately, an invasive insect called the Asian citrus psyllid was recently found in Santa Barbara County and is threatening local citrus. We need your help to stop this dangerous pest.

The Asian citrus psyllid is a tiny insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus plants, and can transmit a deadly plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB). There is no cure for HLB and infected trees will die. The best way to protect the community’s citrus trees is to stop the Asian citrus psyllid.

The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program offers the following tips:

- **Inspect your trees regularly** for the psyllid. Visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org to see photos of the pest.
- **Report psyllid finds** by calling the California Department of Food and Agriculture hotline - 800-491-1899.
- **Cooperate with local agriculture officials** who may ask to access your property.
- **Talk to your local nursery or garden center** about products that can help protect your citrus trees against the Asian citrus psyllid.
- **Do not move citrus** into Santa Barbara County from other areas because it may be infested with the Asian citrus psyllid.

We all play a part in protecting California citrus. For more information on how you can help, visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.

Sincerely,
Victoria Hornbaker
Citrus Program Manager,
Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program



Videos

- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/embed/UWC9Gdv0QGI?rel=0>
- ▶ <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/dogteams/index.html#>

Thank You

Questions?

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