

expensive, labor intensive and time sensitive in order to match the vulnerable stages of the target pests. There may be 6-8 pesticide applications required each growing season. While there are also some biological control techniques available to suppress codling moth, pear psylla, and mites, they are complicated to plan for and carry out successfully.

## Do You Want To Remove Your Trees?

If you are willing to remove your pear and apple trees, contact the Unmanaged Apple and Pear Tree Outreach Program (UAPTOP) at UC Cooperative Extension, 707 263 6838. The Lake County Pear Association will then send you a coupon redeemable for 1 box of fruit (one tree) or 2 boxes of fruit (2 or more trees) at local pear sheds.



Beautiful Lake County Bartlett pears  
Photo by Jack Kelley Clark, © Regents of U.C.

## It's Not Just a Good Idea

Controlling fruit pests is not only the right thing to do, *it's the law*. The California Food and Agricultural Code (Chapter 7) lists the circumstances making a neglected plant a public nuisance and authorizes the County Agricultural Commissioner to abate the nuisance. Applicable Lake County ordinances (#466, #743) require that pear psylla be managed and fire blight infections be immediately removed. In order to maintain effective non-chemical control of codling moth, a new ordinance (# 2895) has been adopted. This requires pear and apple trees **within ¼ mile** of commercial orchards to be managed or the County may require removal of the crop or trees at the owner's expense.

## Where Can I Get Help?

### For Information on State and Local Regulations Pertaining to Unmanaged Trees

Contact: Lake County Department of Agriculture; 883 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport, CA 95453 - (707) 263-0217

### To Learn How to Control Pests Safely and Effectively

Contact: University of California Cooperative Extension; 883 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport, CA 95453 - (707) 263-6838  
[celake@ucdavis.edu](mailto:celake@ucdavis.edu), <http://ucanr.org/uaptop>

Thank you 🍏 for your help keeping  
Lake County pears 🍏 growing!

June, 2009

# Unmanaged Apple and Pear Tree Outreach Program (UAPTOP)

## Lake County Pear Association



Photo courtesy: Lake County marketing program

## Help Keep Lake County's Fruit Industry Healthy and Our Rural Character Intact

The Lake County pear industry faces serious threats from unmanaged pear and apple trees in backyards and on other properties formerly in commercial production. Unless properly cared for, such trees may serve as hosts for pests and diseases which can spread to commercial crops and result in unnecessary chemical treatments. Growers and the County of Lake have developed a multi-faceted program to address this problem.

## Preserving A Way of Life

The first commercial pear orchards were planted in Lake County in the 1870's. The county's rich volcanic clay loam soil and favorable climate make it a premier location for production of fresh pears with excellent taste, unique high sugar content and bright, attractive appearance. Although recent global market trends have put pressure on local producers, pears remain the second most important agricultural commodity in the county. The diversity of crops capable of being produced economically in the county strengthens the local farming industry and allows the existence of many auxiliary businesses employing local people. Agriculture and its pleasing rural character complement the many natural scenic attractions in Lake County; together they form the basis for our local tourist industry.

Trends toward reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture have led growers to introduce non-chemical methods such as pheromone mating disruption for the control of codling moth, the principal pest of pear and apple. Local growers and researchers have received two statewide awards from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for their efforts in reducing pesticide use. In addition to codling moth, other important diseases and pests attacking commercial orchards include fire blight, pear scab, pear psylla, oriental fruit moth, pear rust mite, and pear blister mite.

## The Problem with Unmanaged Trees

These newer "soft" pest management programs, however, open commercial orchards to potential attack from pests multiplying on nearby, unmanaged trees. Codling moth mating disruption is likely to fail when mated female moths can fly in from nearby unmanaged trees, causing chemical sprays to once again be needed. These sprays can then reduce beneficial species capable of controlling pear psylla and some kinds of mites, thereby requiring even more spraying.

Growers must produce clean fruit in order to compete in local markets and abroad. Unmanaged trees negate much of the progress the pear industry has made toward achieving reduced pesticide use.



*Pear infested with codling moth larva*

Growers and homeowners can all work together to assure that local fruit continues to be produced with minimal pesticide use. A healthy pear industry will help preserve the economy and keep Lake County the beautiful and special place that it is.

## What Can I Do?

**Property owners with pear and apple trees can take one of the following steps to eliminate pests:**

- Remove unmanaged pear and apple trees **within ¼ mile** of commercial orchards.

**If you do not want to remove your trees:**

- Remove all fruit as soon as it forms, or apply mating disruptants before bloom, or apply registered insecticides for each codling moth generation.
- Remove fire blight infections as soon as they become visible.
- Apply sulfur or other fungicides to control scab in the spring, just ahead of every rain, when green tissue is present.
- Apply sulfur in the spring and fall to control rust and blister mites.
- Apply dormant oil sprays in the winter to lower pear psylla overwintering numbers.



*Sooty mold russeting caused by pear psylla*

Management of pear and apple pests is a difficult undertaking. Pesticide applications and mating disruptant applications are