

Could you give a review of the invasive pests currently in caneberries? It seems like there are so many and it's hard to keep up with what is going on with recommended management and regulations for each one.

It is striking the number of invasive insect pests that we currently have to deal with in caneberries in Santa Cruz County, and admittedly it can be difficult to keep up with their regulation and how to control all of them. The list below describes the four, and also refers to each one by its commonly used acronym, given in parenthesis after its full name.

Light brown apple moth (LBAM): The quarantine for LBAM is still in place so growers are advised to continue to be vigilant for this leafroller. Inspections on the part of the USDA are planned to take place monthly. The pheromone based twist ties for mating disruption are still available for free through the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's office in Watsonville. It's high time to put these out into production fields, since a flight of adult moths is pretty well under way right now and the ties will reduce their ability to mate and contaminate fields with more larvae through the growing season.

European grapevine moth (EGVM): As of March 8 of this year, blackberries and raspberries for shipment within California and the US are no longer considered to be host crops by regulatory authorities for EGVM and will not be inspected. However, as of this writing, fruit bound for Canada from within the quarantine radius will be inspected, but this restriction should be removed by the time harvest is getting going in late April or early May.

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD): Spotted wing drosophila is not regulated, but as many growers know it is a very damaging pest. Research efforts of this office and several private industry concerns, not to mention several strong scientific teams in other states, continue apace. Please refer to the UC Cooperative Extension blog "Strawberries and Caneberries" for updates on research and management progress for this pest.

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB): While there have been no finds of BMSB in Santa Cruz County, there have been individual finds of this pest in San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties. BMSB is a serious pest where it is established in the eastern US, and it is worth learning about before it gets here too. While it is expected to take several years to build up to damaging levels after establishment, growers should inform themselves about BMSB before then. UC Cooperative Extension will of course be involved in a vigorous campaign of identifying and development of control strategies for this pest, so please stay tuned.

Growers and others are encouraged to keep up to date on these invasive pests as well as others issues in caneberries and strawberries at:
http://ucanr.org/blogs/strawberries_caneberries/

The above has been a brief description of invasive insect pests in caneberries of the Central Coast of California. For other questions and concerns regarding caneberries and strawberries, please contact Mark Bolda, UC Cooperative Extension, 1432 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville, CA. 831-763-8040.