

Why is there a trap in my yard?

From May through October the Department conducts its annual Agricultural Pest Detection Program (also known as the insect trapping program). We deploy traps that target several different pests including Mediterranean Fruit- Fly, Glassy Winged Sharpshooter, Mellon fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Japanese beetle, Light Brown Apple Moth, European Grapevine Moth and Gypsy Moth.

Pest Detection traps are routed throughout the county to ensure full coverage. When traps are placed on private property, the trapper asks permission of the owner. If the owner is not available, a notice is left at the door. The cooperation of the public is necessary and appreciated in this effort to ensure a successful detection program.

Non-native pests can damage our grapes and a wide variety of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants; so timely detection is vital. If no target pests are found, the county can be certified as pest free, which enables exportation of produce and plants outside of the county. We thank the property owners of Calaveras County for their cooperation with our program.

Kevin Wright, Calaveras County Agricultural Commissioner



Glassy Winged Sharpshooter is one of the insects we trap for. It transmits disease to grapes. You may see the yellow panel sticky traps we use in trees around the county. It was found in Sacramento by Sacramento County trappers in 2002, and declared eradicated in 2009. It isn't as big as the picture, but does grow to 1/2 inch.