

Navel Orangeworm Program 2023 – Weekly Report

Week Ending – March 24, 2023

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I. Program Updates

Navel Orangeworm Area Wide Program – Multi-Phase Approach

Phase 1 – 2018-2022

Phase 1 was the Initial Phase of the Navel Orangeworm (NOW) Program (Program) with a focus on developing NOW sterile insect technique (SIT) moths, determining their viability during cold storage transfer, performing quality control (QC) on mating propensity and survivability of the sterile moths, developing a trap monitoring program, and collecting preliminary damage data from the orchards participating in the Program's project site.

Phase 2 – 2023

Phase 2 is the Data Phase of the NOW Program. The focus of this phase is controlling variables within the orchards participating in the Program's project site in order to increase the integrity of the field data being collected. During this phase a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) coordinator will take over as a grower point of contact. They will be responsible for coordinating with growers and establishing orchards for the Phase 2 Program project site.

Navel Orangeworm Sterile Insect Technique

The Navel Orangeworm Program utilizes NOW SIT moths obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Phoenix, Arizona Rearing Facility. QC tests are performed on every shipment of NOW SIT moths used for aerial releases.

Aerial releases for 2023 began on Sunday, March 12, with one magazine of approximately 750,000 moths being released daily over two 640-acre orchards in Fresno County, designated as Zones 1 and 3. A second magazine of approximately 750,000 moths will also be released daily over a second set of two 640-acre orchards beginning later in the year. The start date of the second magazine is yet to be determined.

Listed below are any circumstances which prevented regular releases in 2023:

March 10: No release conducted due to excessive rain preventing access to release sites via air or ground; moth shipment from March 9 held overnight for a second night for potential release on March 11

March 11: No release conducted due to excessive rain preventing access to release sites via air or ground; moth shipment from March 9 was destroyed; moth shipment from March 10 held overnight for a second night for potential release on March 12

March 12: Double release conducted over Zones 1 and 3 with moth shipments from March 10 and 11

March 14: No release conducted due to excessive rain preventing access to release sites via air or ground; moth shipment from March 13 held overnight for a second night for potential release on March 15

March 15: Double release conducted over Zones 1 and 3 with moth shipments from March 13 and 14

March 17: No release conducted due to mechanical issues with release aircraft; moth shipment from March 16 held overnight for a second night for potential release on March 18

March 18: Double release conducted over Zones 1 and 3 with moth shipments from March 16 and 17

Navel Orangeworm Trapping

During Phase 1 of the NOW Program, trap monitoring operations began May 5, 2020, with an area wide project site that included a total of four orchards in Fresno County: two 640-acre almond orchards and two 640-acre pistachio orchards. On May 17, 2021, the Area Wide Project site expanded to include four additional orchards in Fresno County: one 640-acre almond orchard, one 640-acre pistachio orchard, one 160-acre almond orchard, and one 160-acre pistachio orchard. All eight orchards, designated as Zones 1 through 8, were serviced on a weekly basis.

For Phase 2 of the NOW Program, the area wide project site will include eight 640-acre orchards; four pistachio and four almond. Currently, the project site includes six orchards in Fresno County: four 640-acre pistachio orchards and two 640-acre almond orchards. All six orchards, designated as Zones 1 through 6, are serviced on a weekly basis. More acreage will be added to the Project site before being finalized. As more acreage is added, it will be included in this weekly report.

Listed below are any circumstances which prevented regular trap servicing in 2023:

- Week of March 3: No traps were serviced due to excessive rain preventing access to trap sites
- Week of March 17: Only Zone 1 traps were serviced; Zones 2 - 6 traps not serviced due to excessive rain preventing access to trap sites
- Week of March 24: Only Zone 1 traps were serviced; Zones 2 - 6 traps not serviced due to excessive rain preventing access to trap sites

II. Project Design

The 2023 Area Wide Project site is being restructured in preparation for Phase 2 of the Program, which will establish more standardized and consistent approaches to mating disruption, sanitation, pesticide usage, and other cultural practices for more comparable data between each orchard set (release site/control site).

Listed below is information related to each orchard within the Program's Phase 2 project site for 2023, thus far:

Zone #	Crop Type	Acres	Release/Non-release Site	Date Added to Area Wide Project
Zone 1	Pistachio	640	Release	February 2023
Zone 2	Pistachio	640	Non-release	February 2023
Zone 3	Almond	640	Release	February 2023
Zone 4	Almond	640	Non-release	February 2023
Zone 5	Pistachio	640	To be determined	March 2023
Zone 6	Pistachio	640	To be determined	March 2023

Each zone has a trap site ratio of approximately 1 trap site per 18 acres for a total of 36 trap sites for each 640-acre zone. Each trap site has one trap baited with NOW pheromone/PPO lures. Traps baited with pistachio meal bait are planned to be deployed in all zones. All traps are serviced on a weekly basis. Servicing includes collecting trap bottoms and replacing with new trap bottoms. Bait/lure changes occur once a month, and trap tops are replaced as needed. Counts are performed on each trap collected to determine number of wild versus sterile captures and male versus female captures.

III. Trap Results for Week Ending on March 24, 2023

Zone 1 – Pistachio Orchard

A total of **36** meal-baited traps and **36** pheromone/PPO lure-baited traps were collected from Zone 1 on Monday, March 20.

Zone 1 – Pistachio								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
² Mar 6/7 – Mar 13	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Mar 13 – Mar 20	8	0	6	6	0	14	14	0
² Traps 1-18 placed on Mar 6; Traps 19-36 placed on Mar 7								

Zone 1 – Pistachio								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
Feb 7 - Feb 13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 13 – Feb 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
¹ Feb 21 – Mar 6/7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
² Mar 6/7 – Mar 13	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mar 13 – Mar 20	8	0	7	7	1	1	2	0
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 1 during the week of Mar 3 due to excessive rain preventing access								
² Traps 1-18 serviced on Mar 6; Traps 19-36 serviced on Mar 7								

Zone 2 – Pistachio Orchard

No traps were collected from Zone 2 during the week of March 24 due to excessive rain preventing access to the trap sites.

Zone 2 - Pistachio								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
² Mar 7 -								
² No traps were serviced in Zone 2 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 2 - Pistachio								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
Feb 9 - Feb 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 16 – Feb 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
¹ Feb 21 – Mar 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
² Mar 7 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 2 during the week of Mar 3 due to excessive rain preventing access								
² No traps were serviced in Zone 2 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 3 – Almond Orchard

No traps were collected from Zone 3 during the week of March 24 due to excessive rain preventing access to the trap sites.

Zone 3 - Almond								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	*Non-ID Total
² Mar 7 -								
² No traps were serviced in Zone 3 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 3 - Almond								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	*Non-ID Total
Feb 15 - Feb 22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
¹ Feb 22 – Mar 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
² Mar 7 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 3 during the week of Mar 3 due to excessive rain preventing access								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 3 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 4 – Almond Orchard

No traps were collected from Zone 4 during the week of March 24 due to excessive rain preventing access to the trap sites.

Zone 4 - Almond								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 4 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 4 - Almond								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 4 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 5 – Pistachio Orchard

No traps were collected from Zone 5 during the week of March 24 due to excessive rain preventing access to the trap sites.

Zone 5 - Pistachio								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 5 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 5 - Pistachio								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 5 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 6 – Pistachio Orchard

No traps were collected from Zone 6 during the week of March 24 due to excessive rain preventing access to the trap sites.

Zone 6 - Pistachio								
Meal Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 6 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

Zone 6 - Pistachio								
Pheromone/PPO Lure Baited Traps								
Dates Traps in Field	# of Releases During Trap Period	Male Sterile	Male Wild	Male Total	Female Sterile	Female Wild	Female Total	Non-ID Total
¹ Mar 8 -								
¹ No traps were serviced in Zone 6 during the weeks of Mar 17 and Mar 24 due to excessive rain preventing access								

IV. Quality Control

QC tests are performed on samples taken from each shipment of sterile NOW moths. These tests include: zero-hour mortality rates, zero-hour mating dissections, forty-eight-hour mating dissections, seven-day longevity monitoring, and crush tests. Throughout the span of a week, Monday through Sunday, the results of each test are averaged. Below are the QC results from samples of sterile NOW moths for Mag 1, released over Zones 1 and 3, during the week of Friday, March 10, 2023 to Sunday, March 12, 2023:

- 0% of moths from samples found dead at zero hour
- 0% of moths from samples found to have mated at zero hour
- 3% of moths from samples found to have mated after forty-eight hours
- 93% of moths from samples remained alive after seven days in BioChamber
- 95% of moths from samples found to have distinct red dye markings

Below are the QC results from samples of sterile NOW moths for Mag 1, released over Zones 1 and 3, during the week of Monday, March 13, 2023 to Sunday, March 19, 2023:

- 1% of moths from samples found dead at zero hour
- 1% of moths from samples found to have mated at zero hour
- 14% of moths from samples found to have mated after forty-eight hours
- 93% of moths from samples remained alive after seven days in BioChamber
- 91% of moths from samples found to have distinct red dye markings