

# PINK BOLLWORM PROGRAM – WEEKLY REPORT

## 42 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COTTON GROWERS

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State of California  
2895 N. Larkin, Suite A  
Fresno, CA 93727  
Department of Food & Agriculture  
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services  
Integrated Pest Control Branch

Phone: (559) 294-2031  
FAX: (559) 294-2037

Week Ending May 16, 2009

### **Pink Bollworm Activities**

#### **Southern California:**

Native Pink Bollworm (PBW) moths were captured at much lower levels (-83%) in the Blythe/Palo Verde Valley area of Riverside County compared to 2008. No native PBW moths have been trapped in Imperial Valley cotton or okra in 2009. A total of eleven native PBW moths have been detected in highway line traps in the Imperial Valley compared to nine in 2008.

Sterile moths have been released in Imperial and Riverside Counties for the last five weeks. The total to date is 1,300,000 of which 8,154 or 1.25% have been recaptured...

#### **San Joaquin Valley:**

The first natives (2) of the 2009 season were trapped in Merced County in Early Detection Traps. They were trapped in the same field that yielded 148 natives out of the valley total of 189 (78%) in 2008. These natives could be the vanguard of a large emerging population. The accumulated heat units were the nominal amount required for PBW larvae to break diapause, pupate, and emerge as adults. Moths will continue to emerge and reach a peak in mid to late June. Fortunately, this field is no longer being planted to cotton, but is now an orchard of newly planted pomegranate trees. Adjacent cotton planted in 2009 will be treated with pheromone ropes which should prevent mating for up to 90 days. In addition to this, sterile moth releases will continue through the end of the 2009 season.



There were a total of 8,843,254 sterile moths were released this week. This brings the seasons total released to 16,326,739. The 45 early detection traps in place have detected 650 sterile Pink Bollworm moths and two (2) Native Pink Bollworm moths.

#### **Sacramento Valley:**

The latest heat unit projections indicate mapping and trapping will begin in mid August.