

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
PEST DETECTION/EMERGENCY PROJECTS**

**PROTOCOL FOR CONDUCTING QUALITY CONTROL PLANTING (QCP)
OF COUNTY OPERATED DETECTION TRAPPING PROGRAMS**

8.11.11

Quality control planting (QCP) is a tool to determine the trappers' ability to identify specific exotic insects that are placed inside their traps in an actual trapping environment.

Preparation

1. Six target species can be used in routine planting of detection and delimitation traplines: Mediterranean fruit fly (MF), Melon fly (ML), Oriental fruit fly (OF), Mexican fruit fly (MX), Gypsy moth (GM) and Japanese beetle (JB).
2. All planting specimens are pre-marked as follows:
 - a. Flies are fluorescent-dyed at the rearing facilities and have one wing clipped at the tips (under the direction of the CDFA district entomologist).
 - b. GMs display a red mark on the abdomen as a result of a red rearing diet.
 - c. JBs display a mounting-pin hole through the sternum.
3. Trap type - Target species correlation (any number of specimens/trap or permissible combinations of specimens are allowed):
 - a. McPhail/ChamP traps: Any of the target fly species.
 - b. Jackson traps: The target fly species associated with the lure within the trap (e.g. ML only in Cue-Lure baited trap).
 - c. GM traps: GM only.
 - d. JB traps: JB only.
4. All planting specimens shall be in good condition, clearly showing distinguishing body parts.
5. Specimens are available to district entomologists through the CDFA Statewide Trapping QC Coordinator.
6. Upon receipt, the district entomologist is responsible for their specimens' distribution, condition, proper reporting, and follow-up to any identified problems.
7. All specimens are stored in alcohol, with the exception of GM (dry-stored).
8. Whenever possible, planting will involve all target specimens and all trappers.

Planting Procedure

1. The district entomologist, or designee, shall notify the county trapping supervisor that planting will occur within a general timeframe. All involved parties shall

maintain the confidential nature of this process and must not inform trappers that planting will be performed during a specific time. Trapping supervisors and district entomologists should promote the understanding that planting can be performed at any time during the trapping season and that trappers should always be on the alert for targeted insects, not just when they think planting is occurring. There is no need for the planter to wait until all trappers have left the office.

2. General planting should be performed while quality control reviews are being conducted. Other-than-general-planting (i.e. training purposes, missed-plant follow-up planting) can be performed separately.
3. If planting is performed on traps that are not a part of the trapper's route that is being QC'd, the planter shall photocopy trapcards and maps from the trapper's appropriate route book to take into the field.
4. Planted traps shall be those scheduled for servicing within three (3) working days of the planting. This will reduce the possibility of plants being destroyed while in the traps, possibly resulting in a "missed" plant.
5. When choosing a specific trap for planting, the planter shall verify that the address and all other identifying descriptions of that trap are accurate.
6. The planter shall carefully place the planted insect within the trap in a manner that will not damage the insect. Flies placed within Jackson traps shall be placed so that at least one wing adheres to the adhesive on the insert. GM shall be placed so that the top of the wings are visible. Hiding the plant or somehow tricking the trapper into missing the plant is not a goal of this program.
7. Immediately after placing an insect within a trap, the planter shall complete the QC Plant Form at the location of the planting, double-checking to make sure that all relevant information is accurate.
8. Replaced trap inserts and ChamP traps are required to be "double-checked" by someone other than the trapper prior to being discarded. Therefore, it is acceptable for QC plants to be placed onto replaced trap inserts and ChamP traps to determine the effectiveness and focus of the "second checker" when double-checking those inserts and traps. Since this procedure is the most controversial, it shall only be performed by the district entomologist, in the presence of the trapping supervisor, and just prior to the trappers returning to the office. If the trapping supervisor serves as the "second checker", the trapping supervisor's supervisor must be notified, per the above procedure. On these occasions, the QC plant form is completed with the appropriate notations and "Discard" written in the "Address" column.

Reporting

At the end of each planting day, the planter shall provide (via email, fax or in person) the completed QC Plant Form to the county Agricultural Commissioner (or designee), the statewide Trapping QC Coordinator, the QCP contact at PD/EP Sacramento, and the district entomologist.

Within two (2) working days of the last date that planted insects should have been discovered and submitted, the district entomologist shall receive from the trapping supervisor a copy of the QC Plant Form with the final status for each of the planted traps indicated.

The Missed QC Plant Report shall be submitted, within one week after all plants have been accounted for, if any of the plants were missed. The district entomologist will send the information to the Statewide QC Coordinator and the QCP contact at PD/EP Sacramento within two (2) working days of receiving all of the above information.

The current Statewide Trapping QC Coordinator is:

Art Gilbert
(agilbert@cdfa.ca.gov); fax (559) 294-6767

The current QCP contact at PD/EP Sacramento is:

Joanne Shimada
(jshimada@cdfa.ca.gov); fax (916) 654-0555

Sample Submission

The county trapping program sends the recovered plant to the CDFA Entomology Laboratory at:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch, Entomology Lab
3294 Meadowview Road
Sacramento, CA 95832-1448

Any sample shall be submitted in the same manner a wild suspect would be submitted (ITG pages xii and xiii) with the following exceptions:

- A hard copy of the PDR shall accompany the sample – no electronic PDR shall be submitted.
- In the “Submitter Remarks” section of the PDR, clearly state the following: **“Suspect QC Planted Insect”**. **DO NOT WRITE “RUSH”**.
- Do not “rush” the sample to Sacramento for identification.

Missed Plant Follow-up

Trappers who miss their plants shall be re-planted as soon as possible. Trapping supervisors should immediately retrain their trappers in target pest identification. Any missed plants shall require the trapping supervisor to visit the subject trap location as soon as possible to determine if the plant is still in the trap and if it is in recognizable condition. Any missed plant determined by the district entomologist to not be the fault of the trapper will be noted on the QC Plant Form as “MNFT” (Missed Not Fault of Trapper) in the “Status” column. MNFT specimens will not be reported on the Missed QC Plant Report. MNFT specimens will not be included in the following:

County program trappers shall be recommended for removal from the trapping program if they miss “non-training” planted insects in the following numbers during any 12-month period (CDFA-run program trappers *will* be removed):

Any of the Jackson traps target flies: Two (2) or more (in any combination)

McPhail trap target flies: Three (3) or more (in any combination)

GM: One (1) or more (no acceptable excuse for missing GM)

JB: One (1) or more (no acceptable excuse for missing JB)

Consequences of missing “double-checked” plants shall be reviewed on an individual basis.

Missed training plants and MNFTs will not be counted against a program’s overall percent recovered rating.