

# **HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH**

### **“INSECT TRAPS IN FRUIT TREES”**

**REPORT BY LUCY V. PEDREGON**

The Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture has already begun its' program of setting up insect traps throughout the area since the beginning of warm climate. Thousands of traps are set up throughout the County of Los Angeles for early detection of threatening invasive species/pest that destroy our gardens and agriculture. Early detection of pest infestations result in less money used for the purchasing of pesticide which can become toxic to the air we breath and toxic to the fruit we eat. Invasive insects are identified as exotic insects that can be transported as people commute. They are as follows;

- \* Mediterranean Fruit Fly
- Oriental Fruit Fly
- Mexican Fruit Fly
- Guava Fruit Fly
- Melon Fly
- Japanese Beetle
- Gypsy Moth

The Department of Agriculture uses two types of traps. The first trap is called the “Jackson” trap. Inside the triangular trap is a small amount of Pheromone, a chemical which is digested by the insect causing it to stun and fall in the sticky substance of the trap. It is effective for invasive flies.

The second trap is called the “McPhail” rounded trap which lures insects with yeast dissolved in water. Insects fly in but cannot fly out of the trap. Traps for the Japanese Beetle are rose scented with a minute amount of “pheromone” injested to cause stunning to the sticky substance inside. Traps for the moth also has pheromone and a sticky coating inside.

If your home has fruit trees and/or roses, your trees will be assigned a trap for about six weeks. A representative from the Department of Agriculture will follow up the trap on a weekly basis. One will be notified before the trap is set up and if needed to place traps in back yards. For your safety, the identification

**of a representative uniform is a tan shirt with a weights & measure logo patch on shoulders coordinated with green slacks.**

**Trees infested with the invasive insect will be sprayed with an insecticide and quarantined until further notice. \*Please note, this is an annual routine procedure by the Los Angeles County Agriculture Department partnered with the Environmental Protection Bureau to help protect our environment and economy.**

**To report any unusual or targeted insects including plant conditions, call the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pest Hotline at 1 800 491-1899.**

**The number for general information call the General Detection Line at area code (626) 575-5472.**