

Implementation

Current Status of Olive Fly Management in California Table Olives

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Abstract: Olive fly (OLF), *Bactrocera oleae*, was discovered in California in 1998. Since that time it has become established in most of the counties where olive trees exist. Although olives may be grown throughout much of California, most of the table olives are grown in the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento Valley. Olives grown for oil production are mainly found in the coastal valleys north of Santa Barbara. While 10 to 30% OLF larval infestations may be acceptable in olives destined for oil markets, processors of table olives desire OLF-free fruit. OLF adults are commonly monitored with yellow sticky cards that have a food lure (ammonium bicarbonate) and a male sex pheromone (Spiroketal) attached. Currently, OLF adults are controlled by weekly applications of GF-120 Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait with Spinosad® being the active ingredient. However, some growers report that this tactic is not working and their olives have been rejected by processors. Efforts are underway to introduce exotic parasitoids and to better understand the impacts of summer heat on adult OLF populations in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys.