

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2013-24
June 18, 2013

SUBJECT: APHIS Adds New Commodities to the Exempted Host List for Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding conventionally-produced citrus (*Citrus sp.*), stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, and apricots - *Prunus persica*, *P. armeniaca*, *P. persica* var. *nucipersica*, *P. persica*, *P. domestica* or *P. salicina*, *P. armeniaca* x *P. domestica* x *P. armeniaca*, *P. armeniaca* x *P. domestica* x *P. domestica*), apples (*Malus domestica*), and pears (*Pyrus communis*) to the light brown apple moth (LBAM) exempted host list.

The commodities on the exempted host list, when commercially produced, are exempt from the LBAM interstate movement provisions. APHIS' analysis of industry practices for commercially produced citrus, stone fruit, apple, and pear indicated that these fruits are a low risk for spreading LBAM once the leaf material is removed. Attributes of the fruits and the industry practices, such as monitoring for pests, application of mating disruption, visual inspection, and hand-packing provide further mitigations to prevent human assisted dispersal of LBAM. The industry practices that eliminate moth larvae from these commodities are the result of market and economic decisions taken by producers that are unlikely to change. Oversight of production practices, such as stipulations in grading inspection criteria, has not been required for other commodities previously exempted from the quarantine and are not warranted for citrus, stone fruit, apples, and pears. To view this assessment, titled "Risk Assessment: Exemption of Citrus, Stone Fruits, Apples, and Pears from Regulated Status in the Light Brown Apple Moth Federal Quarantine Order Based on Production Practices," please visit the LBAM website at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/lba_moth/index.shtml.

APHIS maintains its survey and regulatory framework, including enforcement of phytosanitary measures, to prevent artificial spread of LBAM to other states or trading partners. For future additions to the LBAM exempted host list, APHIS will update its website (listed below) with the date and description of the new commodity and will notify state regulatory authorities of the change. The Exempted Host List is available on the LBAM website at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/lba_moth/index.shtml

For further information about the LBAM program, you may contact Kai Caraher, Acting LBAM National Policy Manager, at (301) 851-2345.

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