

## **Ag Organization Supports New CDFA Strategy to Control LBAM**

**June 19, 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** The following IPC members:

Ted Batkin – Chairman, Invasive Pest Coalition, 559-285-5440

Barry Bedwell – Vice Chairman, Invasive Pest Coalition, 559-226-6330

Wendy Fink-Weber – Western Growers, 949-885-2256

Peggy Miars – California Certified Organic Farmers, 831-423-2263

Today, the California Department of Food and Agriculture announced a new strategy to eradicate the invasive pest called the light brown apple moth. The Invasive Pest Coalition (IPC) strongly supports this strategy which uses a ground-based approach and newly available control measures to eradicate this invasive pest in an effective and environmentally safe manner.

The IPC is an organization comprised of a broad range of agricultural organizations including conventional and organic farming which is committed to supporting efforts to prevent the introduction of invasive pests into California. Unfortunately, with an increasingly global society, invasive pests like the light brown apple moth are introduced into the state. The IPC believes the potential damage to local farmers, California native plants and species and the overall environment necessitates eradication of the light brown apple moth.

"It is the hope of the IPC that by government officials, farmers and local residents working together we can successfully eradicate the light brown apple moth in a safe and effective manner and prevent future infestations of invasive pests," says Ted Batkin, Chairman of the IPC. "The IPC believes today's actions by the California Department of Food and Agriculture using newly available control strategies and a ground based approach is a very positive step in the eradication effort."

The Invasive Pest Coalition membership includes the following organizations: Agricultural Council of California; California Association of Winegrape Growers; California Avocado Commission; California Certified Organic Farmers; California Citrus Mutual; California Citrus Research Board; California Dried Plum Board; California Farm Bureau Federation; California Grape & Tree Fruit League; California Pear Advisory Board; California Strawberry Commission; California Table Grape Commission; California Tree Fruit Agreement; Western Pistachio Association; Western Growers and the Wine Institute.