

Looking for Fruit Flies in all the Right Places

By Cathy Dausman



Local residents are notified when traps are being placed on their property.
Photo provided

Summer for Lamorindans means warm weather, an abundance of ripening backyard fruit and plentiful travel opportunities. That is as true for fruit fly pests as it is for the human residents, which is why you may see bug traps in your neighborhood trees.

Identifying, and hopefully containing or eradicating, any infestation is the goal of the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture and their trusty little bug trap program. "We like to find infestations when they're small," said agricultural biologist Nancy Niemeyer. The Mediterranean fruit fly is only one of a dozen pests they seek, among them the oriental fruit fly, melon fruit fly and the gypsy moth.

The aforementioned flies are about the size of a small house fly. In 2011, the business of agriculture in Contra Costa County amounted to nearly 93 million dollars. That same year the county installed over 900 bug traps. The traps containing pheromones (think bug cologne) are serviced every 7-14 days by county agricultural staff. Traps are placed among the trees each species finds most desirable.

Melon flies prefer tomatoes, Mexican fruit flies like citrus and guavas, and fruit flies in general like peaches, apricots and nectarines. Mediterranean fruit flies will eat ripe olives, which is how this writer came to have her very own bug trap placed among the branches of a front yard olive tree. ... continued on next page



30 San Pablo Court, Moraga

Diamond in the Rough! Rare opportunity to remodel and update this 4 bdrm, 2 bath home on Wonderful flat yard with large grass area, rock gardens and privacy. A great "The Bluffs" neighborhood with top rated schools.

List price \$849,000



1908 Joseph Drive, Moraga

Incredible .66 acre offering private park-like yard. This 4 bdrm, 3 bath home offers a remodeled kitchen plus a bonus recroom and is located in Moraga Bluff's neighborhood and offers a great setting for entertaining.

List price \$1,125,000



279 Claudia Court, Moraga

Attractive Moraga home has been updated by original owner offering 5 bdrms plus bonus game room with 3 full baths. The home offers large living, dining and family room and updated kitchen. Views of Mt. Diablo and surrounding hills.

List price \$1,299,000

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