



Cooperative Extension, University of California

San Joaquin Valley

Entomology News



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Fall Management of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter in Tulare County Citrus

Glassy-winged sharpshooter management has been one of the hottest topics this year for citrus and grape growers in the lower San Joaquin Valley. Built on the success of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease in Kern County, Tulare County growers are now in the midst of the battle against this pest and its spread northward.

The first stroke of success this year in Tulare County was the assembly of a network of traps throughout citrus and grapes from the Fresno County line in the north to the Kern County line in the south. This grid, with traps spaced at ¼ mile intervals, has allowed for the monitoring of GWSS throughout the county. As a basic overview, GWSS have been found to infest the majority of citrus from the region around Strathmore in the north to the Kern County line in the south.

The second key success this year was the acquisition of sufficient funds to offset insecticide treatments in citrus throughout the county that is known to be infested. There is also sufficient funding to treat groves within a ¼ mile buffer zone around each known infestation. The goal is to suppress this pest regionally, and to slow its spread to the north.

The areawide management concept was first tested in the General Beale region of Kern County in 2001. With the cooperation of numerous growers representing all of the commodities grown in that region, insecticide applications were able to successfully decimate the GWSS population at a regional level. Densities of insects on sticky card traps went from in the hundreds to nearly undetectable, as numbers of GWSS per tree went from sometimes in the thousands to nearly impossible to find. It took little time to recognize how effective this strategy was when compared to spot treating, as spot-treated fields historically quickly became re-infested.

The most encouraging news about the project is that it wasn't until about 2 ½ years after the areawide treatments that the first GWSS began to show up again in the region (and the ones that did were near windbreaks that couldn't be treated at the time due to labeling restrictions). This means that that the program effectively removed this pest for about 3 seasons, without the need to go back in and spray. It is based on the success of the General Beale Pilot Project that this program was expanded to all of Kern County in 2002 and 2003, and is now expanded to the southern half of Tulare County.

The Treatment Program for Tulare County

The goal of the program this fall is to treat citrus groves in Tulare County where glassy-winged sharpshooters have been found, as well as all groves within a ¼ mile buffer zone outside of the infested grove. These treatments began in early October and program coordinators expect to be done by the end of November.

Determining if you are infested or in an infested zone...

Infested citrus is being determined by looking at maps of the cumulative trap catches of GWSS on sticky cards during the entire year. Weekly maps are available to the public at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/gwss> (Click on the link at the right for Maps, then Tulare Co. Maps). Growers who would like to can identify their fields on the maps and see what was caught each week during the year. If glassy-winged sharpshooters have been found on your property, you will be contacted by a treatment coordinator regarding the Areawide Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Management Program

The paperwork

As with all government programs, this one has its fair share of paperwork. The bad news is that it has to be filled out... the good news is that proper completion of the paperwork results in a reimbursement check for the insecticide and application costs.

Paperwork can be acquired from the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's office or from the program coordinators. The coordinators names and contact info are as follows:

Area North of 160
Judy Stewart-Leslie
Treatment Coordinator
mobile: (559) 730-8691
office: (559) 592-9431
fax: (559) 592-3373

Area South of 160
Justin Golding
Treatment Coordinator
mobile: (559) 280-5041
office: (559) 592-9431
fax: (559) 592-3373

Communication with these coordinators is essential to the completion and approval of the paperwork necessary to take advantage of the program.

Steps involved in the paperwork

- 1) Complete and turn in a 'Compliance Agreement'. This can be done at any time, and should be faxed to the Treatment Coordinators office (fax: 592-3373). The compliance agreement explains all of your responsibilities (including the ones listed below).
- 2) A 'Letter of Authorization' will be sent to you. Growers cannot treat until they receive a written Letter of Authorization from their Program Coordinator.
- 3) 48 hours prior to treatment- Turn in the completed 'GWSS Application Notice' to the Ag Commissioner's office (fax: 685-3345). (Note: if you are using a restricted material, you must also turn in your regular restricted materials notice of intent.)
- 4) Within 24 hours after treatment- Turn in the completed 'GWSS Completion Notice' to the Ag Commissioner's office.
- 5) Send in your 'Pesticide Use Report', the 'Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Program Invoice' and 'IRS form W-9' to the Ag. Commissioner's office. The invoice must be a signed original, and therefore needs to be delivered by hand or mailed (not faxed).

NOTICES: GWSS Application Notice vs. GWSS Completion Notice vs. Notice of Intent (NOI)

There has been some confusion regarding the notifications that are required at or near harvest. Here is a brief explanation of the four and when they are needed.

GWSS Application Notice

The 'GWSS Application Notice' is to notify the areawide management program that you will be applying a pesticide to citrus that falls under criteria specified in the 'Letter of Authorization' you received from your program coordinator. It needs to be sent to the agricultural commissioner office by 48 hours prior to pesticide application. This notice needs to be filled out on the official 'GWSS Application Notice' form provided in the informational packet you received from the agricultural commissioner's office, or from your program coordinator. This form is a required part of the reimbursement process.

GWSS Completion Notice

The 'GWSS Completion Notice' informs the areawide management program that you completed the pesticide applications specified on your 'Letter of Authorization' and 'GWSS Application Notice'. It needs to be submitted to the agricultural commissioner's office 24 hours after completion of the pesticide application. A blank 'GWSS Completion Notice' is also available in your informational packet from the agricultural commissioner's office, or from your program coordinator. This completed form is also necessary for completion of the reimbursement process.

Restricted Materials Notice of Intent

This is the standard NOI growers need to supply to the agricultural commission's office only when using a restricted material. Since most growers are using Assail (not restricted), this notice will not apply.

Picking Notice of Intent

The picking 'Notice of Intent (NOI)' notifies the Ag. Commissioner's office when a field from the infested zone is going to be picked. This notice is the responsibility of the packer, and needs to be sent to the Ag. Commissioner's office a minimum of 72 hour prior to harvest. This notice should not be sent to the sharpshooter program coordinators, since the picking notification program is independent of the treatment program. Packers need to be aware that infested zones have expanded since last year, meaning that more fields will fall under these regulations.

Assail as a Pre-harvest Treatment for Citrus

Many different insecticides are effective against glassy-winged sharpshooter, but few fit the needs of citrus growers prior to harvest. This fall, the insecticide product of choice is the neonicotinoid insecticide Assail (active ingredient acetamiprid). Assail is very effective against glassy-winged sharpshooter and is considered reduced-risk by the EPA.

Why Assail?

1. One of the most effective insecticides against glassy-winged sharpshooter
2. Longer residual effectiveness than other pre-harvest insecticides
3. Short re-entry interval (1 day)
4. Short pre-harvest interval (7 days)
5. International residue limits have been established (allowing the export of treated with your packer for more details)

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The areawide glassy-winged sharpshooter program will reimburse qualified growers for the 2 oz. application rate of Assail plus application costs. Acceptable dilution rates are in the range of 100-500 gallons of water per acre. Water needs to be at a pH of 4-9, meaning that it can not be tank mixed with lime. Adding a sticker to the tank is also not allowed, since it interferes with the ability of Assail to move translaminarily, thus decreasing its efficacy.

Some growers have expressed an interest in spraying at higher rates of Assail as a citricola scale treatment. This is just fine (and is a good way to get your application costs paid for), but be aware that the glassy-winged sharpshooter program will only reimburse you for 2 ounces of product plus application costs, you are responsible for pay for the additional ounces of product.

For additional questions about pre-harvest treatments with Assail, or to explore other insecticide options, consult with your program coordinator.

Sincerely,

David Haviland
Entomology Farm Advisor- Kern County
Acting in support of Tulare Co. Citrus and Grape Advisors

Disclaimer: Discussion of research findings necessitates using trade names. This does not constitute product endorsement, nor does it suggest products not listed would not be suitable for use. Some research results included involve use of chemicals which are currently registered for use, or may involve use which would be considered out of label. These results are reported but are not a recommendation from the University of California for use. Consult the label and use it as the basis of all recommendations.

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