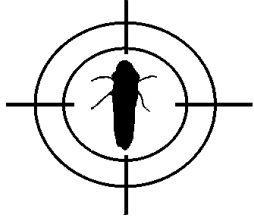


**Kern-Tulare**

# **GWSS Update**



*A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. Participants: Agricultural Commissioner Offices of Kern and Tulare Counties, California Department of Food and Agriculture, University of California-Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS and ARS Divisions).*

**Contact:** Don Luvisi, project coordinator, (661) 868-6226 / [daluvisi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:daluvisi@ucdavis.edu)

**Web sites:** [www.kernag.com/kpp.htm](http://www.kernag.com/kpp.htm) and [www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm)

**April 13, 2002**

## **April 23 meeting will review CDFA's PD Grapevine Loss Assistance Program**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Pierce's Disease Control Program is in the process of implementing the Grapevine Loss Assistance Program (GVLAP) through the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

The program will provide payments to eligible vineyard owners who incur vine losses due to Pierce's Disease spread by the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS).

A growers' meeting on the program is scheduled for 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 23 at the Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street in Bakersfield. CDFA representatives will be on hand to review and answer questions about GVLAP regulations and the application package.

Application forms will be available at the meeting, the Kern Agricultural Commissioner's office or at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/>. Applications and accompanying documentation must be completed and received by the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office by June 1, 2002.

If you have any questions, please contact the Pierce's Disease Control Program at (916) 322-2804, or the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner at (661) 868-6300.

— Robert L. Wynn, Jr.

*Statewide coordinator, Pierce's Disease Control Program*

## **North zone citrus receives foliar knockdown treatment**

After reviewing trapping data, communicating with pest control advisors and analyzing monitoring summaries, foliar knockdown applications were authorized in late March for specific citrus groves in the north zone of Kern County's area-wide GWSS management program.

Foliar treatments are designed to knock down any overwintering adult GWSS populations.

Out of 164 separate citrus groves, 31 were authorized for treatment. Moreover, those 31 sites represented 2,017 acres, or 23 percent of the 8,809 total citrus acres in the north zone. The north zone includes portions of Edison Highway, Pepper Road and Breckenridge Road near Bakersfield.

With few exceptions, the treatment threshold necessary to trigger treatments continues to follow the protocol developed and adopted in the General Beale Road Pilot Project east of Bakersfield.

The north zone applications were authorized and made in advance of citrus bloom declaration. Kern's citrus bloom date was declared for April 2.

The next phase of the management program is to control GWSS nymphs and any adults that may have escaped the knockdown applications. This will be achieved through the use of the systemic insecticide, Admire®. In addition to Admire, foliar applications will be necessary for knocking out pockets, or "hot spots," of GWSS. Admire treatments also are meant to offer long-term control of GWSS.

Trapping and monitoring data will continue to be received and analyzed on a weekly basis.

— *Kern County Department of Agriculture*

## **GWSS parasitoid work begins for 2002 season**

Production and release of the GWSS parasitoid, *Gonatocerus triguttatus*, has begun for the 2002 season.

In early March, releases by the Riverside and Oswell (Bakersfield) rearing facilities were made in Ventura, San Diego, Riverside and Los Angeles counties. To date, several thousand parasitoids have been released in these areas. The first releases in Kern County were made in the first week of April.

Monitoring to determine if *G. triguttatus* has established and survived the winter began in each release area when GWSS egg masses were first observed.

This year, some of the releases of *G. trigtattatus* will be made into caged branches or larger cages to obtain better data on within-season reproduction and to determine if the climate in the release location (e.g., coastal vs. interior valley) has an effect on reproduction and establishment.

Other work in cages will focus on how the performance of *G. trigtattatus* compares to native species of parasitoids in paired comparisons and in mixtures of natives with the exotic *G. trigtattatus*.

New species of parasitoids from South America, Mexico and the southeast United States collected by the USDA-Agricultural Research Service and the University of California are now in quarantine facilities at the APHIS quarantine in Mission, Texas and the University of California quarantine facility in Riverside for testing. Once the new species are shown to attack GWSS and to be safe for release into the environment, we expect to get permits for rearing, release and evaluation in California.

In Kern County, releases of parasitoids will be made in urban plantings and rangeland vegetation that support GWSS infestations. Because agricultural areas in Kern County will be part of an area-wide control effort, it will be important to try and establish new species of natural enemies on native vegetation and urban areas where it may not be possible to treat with pesticides. Refuge populations of GWSS in these areas may reinfest agricultural areas, and the establishment of new species of natural enemies may help reduce GWSS populations in these areas.

Other work with natural enemies planned for this year includes a continuation of field cage evaluations of the green lacewing as a GWSS predator and working with the leafhopper assassin bug, *Zelus renardi*.

— *Oswell Biological Control Facility*

### **Public comment meeting on PD program to be held April 30**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has scheduled a series of meetings throughout the state to accept public comment on a draft environmental report (EIR) on the Pierce's Disease Control Program.

The draft EIR can be viewed at CDFA's headquarters in Sacramento, in city and county planning departments, county libraries and Agricultural Commissioners' offices.

A meeting will be held April 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the Tulare County Agricultural Building Auditorium.

### **Special thanks**

A special thanks to the California Table Grape Commission and the GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties for their support of this newsletter.

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