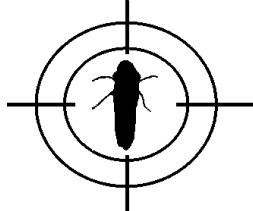


Kern-Tulare

GWSS Update



*A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties.
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Pilot project GWSS numbers remain low in March

Field sampling efforts within the General Beale Road Pilot Project during the month of March indicate that adult glassy-winged sharpshooter numbers are very low.

Of the 33 citrus groves sampled, only three had detectable levels, and generally only one adult was collected out of 30 or 40 sampled trees per grove (average = 0.033 or 0.025, respectively). Eggs and nymphs were not collected in any of the pilot project groves, whereas they were collected in the northern zone of the Kern County Area-wide Management Program (See *GWSS Update*, 3-23-02).

Improvement over 2001. These observations suggest that area-wide control methods tested in the pilot project during 2001 were very effective at reducing GWSS populations.

Sticky trap data during March showed very low trap captures, with generally only one adult per trap captured over a full week of exposure time. During March, an average of 17 traps (3.6 percent), of the 467 traps placed within the pilot project area, showed the presence of sharpshooter adults.

An average of 24 GWSS adults was captured each week. Compare this with March 2001 when an average of 1,280 GWSS adults was captured each week in the pilot project. Sticky trap captures so far in April are showing similar low capture rates. Traps along the northeastern edge of the project, however, are showing an increasing number of GWSS adults.

Effect of cool temperatures. Weekly trap captures may fluctuate widely from week to week during the spring based on temperature fluctuations. This time last year, a cold front dropped the average daily temperature from 65 degrees to 45 degrees.

As a result, the total trap capture dropped from 850 the previous week to 15. The GWSS adults were still present in the field; however, they were not active at the cooler temperatures. Based on last year's data, the overwintering adults will remain active until the middle of May. First generation adults should begin to show up on sticky traps near the end of May.

—*Matt Ciomperlik and David Bartels, Entomologists, USDA-APHIS-PPQ*

Meeting reminder

A growers' meeting on the Grapevine Loss Assistance Program is scheduled for 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 23 at the Kern County Fairgrounds in Bakersfield.

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