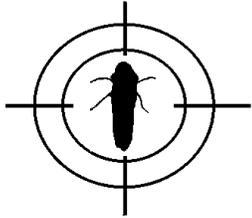


Kern-Tulare

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
Web sites: www.kernag.com/kpp.htm and www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

April 6, 2002

Kern grape growers may receive financial compensation under CDFA's PD Grapevine Loss Assistance Program

Grape growers may have received a letter in the mail from the CDFA Pierce's Disease Control Program regarding reimbursement for vineyards incurring losses due to Pierce's Disease (PD). According to the letter, Kern County growers may receive up to \$2,062.00 per acre for vine losses due to PD spread by the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS).

There are a few key points to consider when determining if you might be eligible for this program. Listed below are several factors used to determine program eligibility developed by the CDFA. Comments have been added for clarification.

- 1) Owners/operators of commercial vineyards may be compensated for a portion of vineyard establishment costs for vines removed because of infection by PD spread by GWSS. These payments are authorized just for vine losses and not for grape production losses. Furthermore, this program does not compensate for removal of individual vines.
- 2) Grower must suffer a minimum of 30 percent infection per contiguous acre removed. This means that the total area, whether it may be two acres or 40 acres, must have had 30 percent of the vines showing symptoms last season or prior to last season.
- 3) Qualifying vineyards must have been removed after August 10, 1999, and before May 1, 2002. The May 1 deadline is final for administrative reasons. Please do not call the CDFA and request that the deadline be pushed back so that the 2002 crop may be harvested. If you are taking part in this program, cultural practices should not be initiated in the portion of the vineyard that will be removed. This includes pruning, irrigation, shoot thinning, etc. The purpose of removing PD vines in this county is to remove potential inoculum sources so that we reduce the chances of GWSS feeding on them during this season, as well as vines becoming infected and causing further spread throughout neighboring vineyards.
- 4 and 5) Proof or confirmation of PD infection of the vines removed must be confirmed in writing. In the letter, it states that both the Agricultural Commissioner and the UCCE Viticulture Farm

Advisor are in a position to verify severe infections that qualify under this program. Our office will provide letters on University of California letterhead to CDFA for any grower who participated in intensive surveys and sampling last year and sent their samples through our office for PD analysis through the CDFA Plant Pathology lab.

The letter also states that owner/operator certification is acceptable. However, this will be under intense scrutiny. The bottom line is that if you are going to apply for this program you should be prepared to show proof that your vines are/were in decline or died of PD and not from some other cause. Do not remove your vineyard and expect to be compensated if you cannot show proof. Proof may include:

- Documents that show a PD survey was conducted, samples were collected and sent to a certified lab and a significant number of tissue samples returned positive for PD from a single location.
- Photos or videotape of symptoms and the degree of infection (at 30 percent) in your vineyard.

6) The area from which PD vines were removed must be determined to be an “infested area,” based on the distribution of GWSS in California. In general, most of southern Kern County is considered infested, but if you are unclear, contact the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner’s office.

7) All information is subject to verification by the PD Control Program.

If you think you qualify for this program, please contact the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (661) 868-6300 for an application form. Forms are also available via the Internet at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps.pdcp/>. All applications and accompanying documentation must be completed and received by June 1, 2002.

— Jennifer Hashim, UCCE Viticulture Farm Advisor

Compliance agreements expected soon

GWSS compliance agreements for both the General Beale Road Pilot Project and the Area-Wide Management zones are in the final stages of the approval process. After the Kern County Department of Agriculture receives authorized versions, it will be signing up all participants. Invoice processing will be delayed until 2002 compliance agreements are on file.

— Kern County Department of Agriculture

CDFA to use bar code scanners for collecting GWSS data

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is implementing the use of bar code scanners in the General Beale Road Pilot Project. The scanners will become an important tool used to monitor Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) populations.

The TimeWand II scanner by Videx has many advantages over the current methods used to collect, enter and share data. The TimeWand II unit is compact, about the size of a student calculator, and has many user-friendly options.

Probably the No. 1 advantage is the elimination of data entry by hand. Data from the scanner is electronically transferred to a computer. This eliminates the human error factor of data entry by hand and the man-hours used for data entry.

Of course, data entry in the field is still entered on the TimeWand II by hand with similar error ratios as hand writing the data on paper. The ease of data transfer via e-mail and conversion into Excel files are additional features for analyzing and sharing data.

Each GWSS trap location has a metal bar code affixed to a bamboo stake. The bar code is affiliated with a specific trap number. The scout scans bar codes weekly, and the number of adult GWSS and nymphs are entered manually. The scanner unit also utilizes a time and date stamp feature, which also adds to the quality of data collection.

Rosie Yacoub with CDFA in Sacramento is providing the technical expertise, training, and is ironing out any glitches that may arise. Lead Agricultural Technician Ryan Funk and his crew of Carrey Paddock, Jack Jones, Dawn Harper and Carlos Gomez are the actual users of the units and soon-to-be experts.

If the TimeWand II units prove to be a valuable tool, the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will implement the system into its Area-Wide Management Program.

— *David J. Elms, associate biologist, CDFA*

GWSS-rearing activities reach eighth generation in Texas

Adult GWSS initially were collected in Bakersfield from mid-July to December 2000, and shipped to the quarantine facility at the Plant Protection Laboratory in Mission, Texas.

Attempts were made to rear this insect pest, providing a variety of host plants and environmental conditions in greenhouses and walk-in environmental growth chambers as well. By the end of the year, field-collected and the first generation insects we obtained were either lost or exhibited "reproductive diapause." The last egg mass was produced in September 2000.

Early in 2001, adult GWSS were collected again in Bakersfield. Additional collections took place throughout the year for a total of approximately 17,000 adults collected in 2001. Insect collection, handling and shipping methods were improved over time. The percent mortality upon reception of insects in Texas, however, ranged from 40 to 70 percent.

Towards the end of February 2001, mating was observed, followed by oviposition in March. GWSS were established in greenhouses, and approximately 52,000 nymphs were produced from March 1 to Nov. 7, 2001.

A total of six consecutive generations were obtained throughout 2001. Under our rearing conditions, adult females did not enter diapause during the fall of 2001 and the colony is now completing the eighth generation.

— *Isabelle Lauzière, entomologist, USDA-APHIS-PPQ*

Rearing GWSS' natural enemies

Cultures of the parasitoids *Gonatocerus ashmeadi*, *G. triguttatus*, and *G. morrilli* were initiated using specimens collected in California and in south Texas/northeast Mexico. They were obtained from D. Morgan, G. Simmons and W. Jones.

The first or second generation of each species has already been produced in our laboratory. In addition, with the help of W. Jones' collaborators from the USDA-ARS laboratory in Hurlingham, Argentina, adult parasitoids of other sharpshooter(s) were collected in South America and received in quarantine in late March 2002.

Taxonomic classification is pending, but there are apparently four different parasitoid species. We are happy to report that, so far, one of these species did parasitize GWSS eggs and develop to adulthood. Efforts are being made to propagate this species to numbers that will allow parasitoid identification and evaluation. The other species remain under close observation to determine if they will parasitize GWSS eggs as well.

— *Isabelle Lauzière, USDA*

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