

August 1, 2003

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).

Tulare County focuses on monitoring, treating GWSS

After a brief hiatus in early July, we are again applying Merit® in the urban areas of Porterville and Strathmore. Surveys in the untreated areas continue to show a low level of GWSS in the urban ornamentals. Follow-up surveys in those urban areas treated in May and June show dramatic drops in GWSS numbers (nearly undetectable).

The USDA area-wide trapping program continues to indicate a much higher level of GWSS in the nearby commercial citrus groves. As before, our goal is to establish a program of urban treatments to complement the comprehensive area-wide commercial program expected to begin in the fall. The ¼-mile trapping grid is in place all the way to the county line with Fresno.

A program of treatments and reimbursement similar to the one that has been so successful in reducing GWSS numbers in Kern County will be based on these trap readings. To date, the traps indicate that the greatest numbers of GWSS are still in the areas around Strathmore, Porterville and southern Tulare County (mostly east of Highway 65). However, some new areas east of Lindsay up against the foothills have been discovered. There are also scattered single insect finds west of Terra Bella and north of Richgrove in the grape/citrus interface.

If you are a grape grower in these areas, it would be prudent to place some yellow sticky-tape out to determine if your

vineyard is infested, and then treat appropriately.

The ¼-mile grid is useful as a tool to identify “areas” where GWSS may be present, but infield trapping will give you a better feel for the risk of Pierce’s Disease spread within your own vineyard.

Also make sure you are familiar with PD symptoms. It is critical that you remove vines early in the disease cycle so that GWSS doesn’t have large reservoirs of *Xylella* to draw from and spread around. Remember that PD can take up to three or more years to fully express classic symptoms and throughout this period can act as a source of bacterial spread.

Citrus Variegated Chlorosis poses threat. Recently, Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC) has been found in Costa Rica. This is a significant spread of this Pierce’s Disease related form of *Xylella*. In Brazil, where CVC has caused significant losses to the citrus industry, relatives of GWSS spread this disease.

Slowing the northward spread of CVC will be one of the great challenges for USDA and our neighbors to the south in the coming years. There are many native species of GWSS-related sharpshooters in the citrus producing areas of Guatemala and Mexico (including GWSS itself). So, it’s imperative that we get a handle on this disease vector now.

— Dennis Haines, Tulare County
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- www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/
- http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/

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