

August 22, 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).

Coachella Valley grape growers fund Admire study in area's commercial vineyards

The Desert Grape Administrative Committee of Coachella Valley is funding a project to determine the uptake, distribution and persistence of systemic treatments of Admire® (imidacloprid) and Platinum™ (thiamethoxam) in the area's commercial vineyards.

Nick Toscano of UC Riverside's Department of Entomology is leading the project, with cooperation from Frank Byrne and Nilima Prabhaker, also of UCR's Department of Entomology, and Carmen Gisbert of the University of California-Cooperative Extension in Indio. Area grape growers also will participate.

The Desert Grape Administrative Committee is composed of table grape growers in the Coachella Valley.

Building on Admire's success. The yearlong project will expand current knowledge of Admire, part of a chemical class of insecticides called neonicotinoids. Admire, from Bayer CropScience, has played a significant role in reducing populations of glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) in citrus orchards and vineyards in Southern California area-wide management programs.

"By measuring the temporal and spatial dynamics of Admire uptake and distribution in mature citrus trees and grapevines, and then relating these data to GWSS densities on untreated trees and vines, we have demonstrated the capacity of a single Admire treatment per season to reduce GWSS populations," Toscano says.

"It is now essential for us to broaden

the scope of our research to incorporate new challenges, particularly those concerning the suitability of new neonicotinoid insecticides, such as Syngenta's Platinum, being considered for use in citrus and vineyards," he adds.

Seeking answers. Because the neonicotinoids are the most effective chemical control options available for the management of GWSS and Pierce's Disease (PD) and the vine mealybug, Toscano believes a thorough understanding of their behavior and efficacy in Coachella Valley grapes is essential.

"The impact of soil type, irrigation and plant maturity on the effectiveness of Admire and Platinum are just some of the questions that still need to be answered," he says.

Admire has been used successfully in Southern California's battle against GWSS. In Temecula, where the first area-wide management program was initiated in 2000 in response to a severe PD epidemic, remnant GWSS infestations are now associated primarily with untreated tracts of vegetation, such as organic citrus. Densities in conventional orchards and vineyards are almost undetectable.

In southern Kern County, GWSS population densities have been similarly reduced in the General Beale Road Pilot Project.

Areas such as Ventura/Fillmore, Riverside/Redlands and Coachella Valley, which have not yet participated in area-wide management programs, still retain high GWSS populations. ■

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- www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/
- http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/

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— Nick Toscano
University of California, Riverside

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