

August 29, 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).

Ventura County remains vigilant in anti-GWSS efforts

Citrus growers in Ventura County's Santa Clara River Valley are finishing up applications to treat glassy-winged sharpshooters (GWSS), reports Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Alan Laird.

About 5,000 of the 5,700 citrus acres in the valley, which includes Fillmore, Piru and Santa Paula, have been treated with Assail®. The systemic, Admire®, has been used on the rest.

"We'd like to see more Admire used but many growers need to update their equipment for that," Laird says.

Admire is applied through drip irrigation; Assail is a contact, or spray, treatment.

Under a pilot program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Agriculture and the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's office, citrus growers are reimbursed for the treatments.

While GWSS population levels remain relatively low in Ventura County, they are "fairly uniform, with a few hot spots," Laird says.

Find GWSS trapping results online

Area-wide management maps for the Kern County Project can be found at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/gwMaps/gwMgmtMaps.htm>

Area-wide management maps for the Kern Urban Trapping can be found at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/gwMaps/gwKernUrban.htm>

No bulk citrus shipments leaving Ventura County have been rejected this season, Laird notes. The county's rejection-free shipments are no small feat.

"About 1,000 shipments of citrus leave here every month for packing in Kern, Tulare and Fresno counties," he says.

Likewise, no nursery stock leaving Ventura County has been rejected for GWSS finds in several months. There are 22 area nurseries that are closely inspected on a regular basis for GWSS. "It's a time-consuming process for us and the nurseries but a necessary one," says Laird.

Despite this year's low pest pressure among the nurseries, Ventura County is proceeding with a nursery treatment program that would reimburse nurseries for a one-time GWSS treatment. Laird expects the program to be presented to the county's board of supervisors for approval next month.

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—Catherine Merlo

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Web sites:

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

"We'd like to see more Admire used but many growers need to update their equipment for that."

— Alan Laird,
Ventura County
Deputy Agricultural
Commissioner

Mark your calendars

Oct. 28, 2003

The Pierce's Disease PD/GWSS Board will meet in Napa, Calif.

Oct. 29, 2003

The Pierce's Disease PD/GWSS Advisory Task Force will meet in Napa, Calif.

Dec. 9–11, 2003

The Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held at the Coronado Island Marriott in San Diego.