

Aug. 29, 2006

Kern/Tulare

GWSS Update



A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. Participants: Agricultural Commissioner's 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).

Arizona increases funding, initiates external quarantine order as GWSS numbers rise

Glassy-winged sharpshooter numbers in Arizona continue to rise, with more than 217 adults discovered since the pest reappeared in Sierra Vista in June.

Gov. Janet Napolitano allocated an additional \$528,000 to the sharpshooter control program Aug. 1. That brings total funding to \$728,000 to fight the pest through June 2007. The additional monies will pay for personnel, transportation, treatments and trapping.

In addition, Arizona launched an external quarantine order Aug. 1. Signed by Donald Butler, director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the order prohibits host material from entering Arizona unless it has been treated or comes from a nursery that's been certified as GWSS-free.

Treatment is underway within a three-mile radius of the Sierra Vista nursery where the sharpshooter finds were made. Commercial applicators have been brought

in to reach into tree tops, the Arizona Department of Agriculture reported Aug. 1.

"State-wide survey and detection efforts continue to progress," John Caravetta, deputy director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, reported today. "We have cooperative programs in place with vineyard owners across the state to partner with them to extend our detection capabilities through their own monitoring of their vineyards with traps and screening expertise provided by the department."

All GWSS detections continue in the core area, and are well within the defined 144-square-mile quarantine area, Caravetta noted.

Additional employees have begun hanging more than 6,000 traps around the state to create an accurate picture of where the state stands in combating the pest.

First detected in a nursery in Sierra Vista in August 2005, the GWSS reemerged this year in the same area. ■



Sierra Vista, GWSS site.

Santa Clara County fights new GWSS infestation

A new infestation of GWSS was discovered July 14 in Santa Clara County, bringing to three the number of south San Jose areas where the sharpshooter has been found.

The newest infestation is located in the Evergreen area of southeast San Jose. With the latest find, more than 19 residential properties in the city have been identified as infested with viable life stages of GWSS, reports Greg Van Wassenhove, agricultural commissioner.

The county's Division of Agriculture is conducting a GWSS eradication program using integrated pest management strategies, including public education, pest detection and exclusion, biological control, and pesticide treatment of affected properties. Those efforts are also underway in the two other GWSS infested areas, near Blossom Hill Road and near Branham Lane.

An infestation in Cupertino was declared eradicated in January 2006.

Local wine-grape growers have expressed concerns, said Eric Wylde, who heads Santa Clara County's GWSS Program. "They're monitoring for the glassy-winged sharpshooter in their vineyards," he says.

Valued at \$7.3 million, the wine-grape industry ranks No. 6 in Santa Clara County's agricultural production.

The latest find comes on the heels of a cut in GWSS funding. "We received a 30-percent cut to our state Pierce's Disease Control Program contract funding, and a week later discovered this new infestation," Wylde says. "It's biting into the resources that had been identified for the other two areas of infestation in our county and has made it very difficult to keep up with GWSS monitoring activities in those areas." ■

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Temecula completes citrus treatments

Three rounds of insecticide applications to treat GWSS on organic citrus are finished for the summer in the Temecula area, Nick Toscano with the Area-wide Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Program, reported Aug. 14.

Vineyard grower and area-wide applications of Admire in citrus in 2005 and 2006 helped reduce GWSS populations this year, Toscano noted. The Temecula area's GWSS counts in 2006 were only 20 percent of the area's 2004 and 2005 levels.

"I feel confident that the lower populations [are] due to insecticides rather than weather," Toscano reported.