

August 3, 2002

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).

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GWSS presence grows in Tulare County

This has been a very busy period for the GWSS/PD project in Tulare County. We completed treating the Porterville Developmental Center (a 40-acre complex adjacent to citrus groves) with Merit. The low shrubs around the facility had already been treated with Sevin, but the larger trees were still harboring GWSS.

Starting July 15, a series of trap finds and subsequent delimitation surveys south of Ducor led to the conclusion that most of the citrus groves east of Highway 65 from Avenue 56 to the County Line have low level infestations of GWSS.

New trap finds. Additionally, trap finds have been made in the area east and northeast of Strathmore (primarily along Road 256 at the edge of the foothills), one to two miles west of the Magnolia Quarantine Area, and southeast of Terra Bella (again, adjacent to the foothills). All of these new trap finds were made in oranges and lemons.

On Monday, July 29, we had three finds in our grape/citrus interface trapping routes. Two were made in the area around Richgrove (just north of a series of finds in Kern County) and one west of Terra Bella.

Delimitation surveys are underway in all of these new find areas to determine whether they represent infestations. Our existing quarantine areas will be expanded to include any of these areas that are confirmed as infested (a minimum of five insects or multiple life-stages present).

Grower involvement. Some grower contacts have been made, and voluntary treatments are being conducted or contemplated. As the picture becomes clearer, more contacts will be made and knockdown treatments applied.

Growers are being asked to note on

the N.O.I.s and subsequent invoices that GWSS was the reason for the applications, in case funding for reimbursement is found at a later date. It is our hope that a coordinated effort to control GWSS in Tulare County can be conducted in concert with the actions taken in northern Kern County this summer and fall.

Beyond county lines. To that end, we have been in constant communication with representatives of the Kern-Tulare County GWSS Task Force, Kern County Ag Commissioner, CDFA and USDA. Unfortunately, GWSS does not respect county lines. The problems faced in Kern County have extended into a large area of Tulare County. To be successful, any program to control GWSS must be regional in nature and not limited to political boundaries.

Due to recent trap finds by Fresno County in Kingsburg, we have established a delimitation program in the one mile adjacent to the Fresno-Tulare county line. Kingsburg was first found to be infested in 2000. Subsequent treatment with Merit and Tempo was thought to have eradicated GWSS. Surveys conducted in 2001 and early 2002 both showed negative results. Unfortunately, we now know that the population was simply reduced to undetectable levels.

If you think you have found GWSS, we need to know about it! Only by accurately identifying infested areas can we make reasonable decisions about how to proceed in the future. If you have a captured specimen, GWSS on sticky tape or in traps, please contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's Office. For those in Tulare County, your contact for GWSS identifications are Dennis Haines or Daniel Bigham at (559) 685-3323.

— Dennis Haines, Tulare County
Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Hopper tape excellent for locating GWSS

To help identify new areas where GWSS is established, we are asking for the help of the growers here in Tulare County. "Hopper Tape" has been shown to be an excellent tool in locating low level infestations of GWSS. The project in Kern County has "Hopper Tape" available, and we will help any grower who is interested in getting some, especially those of you who are growing grapes in close proximity to citrus.

— Dennis Haines,
Tulare County
Agricultural
Commissioner's
Office —
(559) 685-3323



Kern-Tulare GWSS Update

GWSS counts in General Beale Pilot Project and Northern Zone remain low

Continued monitoring of the General Beale Road Pilot Project indicates a very low population of GWSS in a few scattered areas.

To date, only three citrus groves in the pilot study that were treated with Admire in 2001 developed populations that warranted treatment in 2002. All citrus groves in the Northern Zone have been treated with Admire this year. This treatment has been effective in slowing the population development of GWSS in the zone.

Continued weekly monitoring, using sticky traps and intensive beat sheet sampling, show only minor buildup of GWSS in citrus groves.

For the week of July 26, 4,378 sticky traps were collected from citrus groves and grape vineyards in the Northern Zone. Of these, less than 1% had GWSS in the 10-25 range per trap. These "hot spots" are continuing to be monitored, and growers are being notified so that they are aware of the situation.

Zoning in on GWSS management areas

It can be a little confusing sorting out which zones are which in Kern County's GWSS areawide management area. Here's the lowdown:

All of Kern County from Seventh Standard Road south to Wheeler Ridge is devoted to GWSS research. This management area is divided into five zones:

- **General Beale Road Pilot Project** — This zone encompasses some 13,000 acres east of Bakersfield. It covers mostly citrus as well as numerous other crops, including grapes. It's bordered on the east by the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains and by Towerline Road on the west; and by Highway 58 on the north and Bear Mountain Boulevard on the south.
- **Northern Zone** — This zone extends from Seventh Standard Road on the north to DiGiorgio Road on the south. It

Generally, over the entire area where sticky trap sampling is occurring in Kern County, counts of GWSS for the week of July 26 were down from the previous weeks counts. This may be the result of late Admire treatments kicking into the system or possibly the result of adult GWSS numbers naturally declining as a result of their seasonal biology. Continued monitoring may give us definitive answers to these questions.

New sampling tool to be used. Another sampling tool soon to be employed in the program will determine the uptake speed, amount and decline over time of the pesticide Admire within citrus trees. This type information will allow managers to better predict the effectiveness of specific pesticide applications. This will provide an additional piece of knowledge, which will be considered along with other information to make management recommendations. This will be a joint project between APHIS and UC-Riverside.

— Robert Richard,
USDA APHIS, GWSS Program

also extends from Highway 99 on the west to Towerline Road on the east. It includes a large amount of citrus.

- **Central Zone** — Grapes are the predominant crop in this zone, which extends from Highway 99 on the west to Towerline Road on the east, and from DiGiorgio Road on the north to Herring Road on the south. Very little citrus is grown in this zone.
- **Southern Zone** — Bordered by Herring Road south to the foothills, this zone also stretches from the Highway 99 on the west to the foothills on the east. Grapes are a major crop in this zone.
- **Western Zone** — This zone spreads south from Copus Road to the foothills of southern Kern County, and from Highway 99 west to Highway 33. Citrus is predominant here.

"To be successful, any program to control GWSS must be regional in nature and not limited to political boundaries."

— Dennis Haines,
Tulare County
Agricultural
Commissioner's
Office

Find GWSS program maps online

Maps for the Kern Pilot Project and Area-wide Management Program are available online at:

<ftp://ftp.netxn.com/pub/agcom/gwss/fromCDFA/>.

(FYI: These are large files.)