

August 30, 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).

Overview of Area Wide GWSS Management Program

GWSS populations throughout Kern County are significantly lower than reported last year at this time.

The treatments applied in 2001 in the General Beale Road pilot study have reduced the population of insects there without any recovery. We will continue to monitor the situation there since only three applications of foliar treatments were warranted this year.

As we enter the third year, it is critical to know what the residual population of GWSS will do with respect to increase in numbers next year. Also, we will attempt to quantify the impact of existing pest management practices along with environmental factors that will keep this population moderated at very low levels.

GWSS appearing in Northern Zone. In the Northern Zone, the situation is similar to the General Beale Road pilot study area. Timing of the treatments in the Northern Zone went in later this year. The level of control we saw early in the year was not as dramatic as last year; however, now we see the population of GWSS in citrus about where it is in the pilot study.

Unfortunately, we are seeing several areas in the Northern Zone where the traps are indicating GWSS. These traps are primarily in grapes. This may be the result of later treatments in the citrus, and GWSS were already migrating out of citrus into the grapes. This is precisely what the program was designed to prevent in the pilot study.

We are working feverishly to obtain funding much earlier next year so this delay in program delivery will not occur again.

(The Northern Zone of Kern County extends from Seventh Standard Road on the north to DiGiorgio Road on the south. It also extends from Highway 99 on the west to Towerline Road on the east. It includes a large amount of citrus.)

Grape growers have been contacted

and trap data are available for their review so they can plan their treatments to reduce the current infestations in the vineyards. It is essential these populations be treated to prevent these GWSS from moving back into citrus this fall.

Growers are encouraged to call the lab or stop by to review the data we have pertaining to their groves and vineyards.

Kern's GWSS monitoring continues. Monitoring of GWSS with traps continues throughout the entire county. The additional traps this year are detecting a general low-level infestation in the county. This does not suggest an increase in GWSS in the county, just that we are now able to better understand the real infestation and population level we have. This information is necessary for planning purposes this fall in preparation for next year's program.

Survey and treatment launched. North of the four zones that were initially identified in the Area Wide Management Program, we have initiated a survey and treatment program. As outlined in the last *GWSS Update*, these traps are arrayed in a one-quarter-mile grid. This increased trap density has helped better delineate the population of GWSS in the area known as Highway 65.

As suspected early this year, there appears to be a low-level infestation throughout this area. The three areas that were problematic last year and early this year along Porterville Highway have been treated and the population seems to have been reduced to what we see in the remaining areas.

The growers along the citrus/grape interface have provided additional information pertaining to the GWSS population by using "Hopper" tape in the grapes. This area will be included in the next year in the Area Wide Management Program initiated this year.

— Lloyd Wendel, USDA-APHIS

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Web sites:

- www.kernag.com/kpp.htm
- www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

GWSS Task Force to meet Sept. 6

The GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties will meet Friday, Sept. 6 at 1:30 p.m. at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Tulare. The office is located at 4437 South Laspina St.

For more information, contact the Kern or Tulare Agricultural Commissioner's Office.