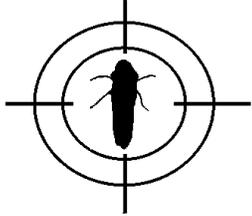


Kern-Tulare

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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December 1, 2001

Time is running out to collect and submit Pierce's Disease samples;

Dec. 10 is the deadline

The harvest in most cases is done and the weather is changing rapidly. The combination of removing irrigation and cold temperatures will disguise the symptoms of Pierce's Disease (PD) because natural vine senescence causes the leaves to turn varying shades of yellow and drop from the vine. Therefore, growers and vineyard managers should be finishing up their monitoring efforts at this time.

Monitoring the incidence of PD and minimizing the potential for spread has been an underlying objective of the General Beale Road Pilot Project from the beginning. Although we have conducted intensive surveys of approximately 400 acres of vineyard around General Beale, reliance on managers and pest control advisors to extend the efforts beyond the borders of the project area was essential.

We are very pleased by the support and awareness of both symptom identification and disease management generated among the grower community.

Since June, our office has accepted samples for diagnostic analysis of PD at no cost to the collector. To date, we have received nearly 1,600 samples from vineyards all over the county. Although we have only been compiling information for six months, we have been able to generate a crude map of where inoculum is present. This information may help us better understand where an intensive monitoring and management program will be required and where future PD hot spots may occur.

Please note: We will continue to accept samples until Dec. 10 and will resume the program again during the middle of June 2002. Thank you for your cooperation.

— Jennifer Hashim

UCCE Viticulture Farm Advisor

More lessons learned from General Beale Pilot Project: Untreated areas draw GWSS to treated sites

Islands of untreated areas result in movement of GWSS from untreated to treated areas, according to knowledge gained from the General Beale Road Pilot Project.

As a result, all host plants must be treated.

In the Bena Road area, four research plots were left untreated. These measured a total of 10% of the acreage, or approximately 128 acres. Within one week, GWSS movement from treated to untreated areas was recorded.

In the General Beale and Bena Road areas, windbreaks were treated.

Homestead and other ornamental planting were limited in the project area and were treated. Any untreated areas will be a source of re-infestation of previously treated areas.

An area-wide approach is essential. A coordinated effort should be undertaken where all host plants are treated in a timely manner so that total population suppression is possible.

Untreated hosts throughout the year can and will serve as a source for the insect to reinfest areas that were previously reduced to non-detectable population levels.

Total population reduction is essential in an area where the insects can serve as vectors for the disease. Until research can provide strategies for managing the disease, vector control on an area-wide basis is the best alternative we have to maintain productivity.

— *Don Luvisi*

Pierce's Disease Symposium set for Dec. 5–7

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has organized a research symposium Dec. 5–7 to hear progress reports on more than 50 projects aimed at finding a cure for Pierce's Disease and control methods of the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

The symposium will be held at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort in San Diego. Information is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp. Click on "Research symposium."

Bena Road GWSS populations reach very low levels

The graph below shows the overall trend in GWSS population reductions as a result of control efforts in the Bena Road Project.

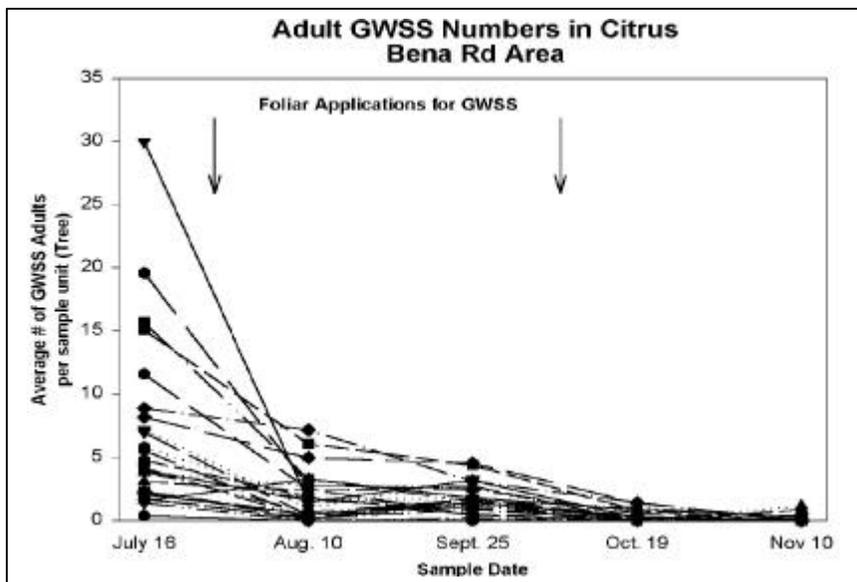
Two foliar applications were made in citrus to reduce the high populations of GWSS in the Bena Road area, one in late July and one in mid-October. Both applications showed considerable reductions in GWSS populations, the first substantially reducing those populations when grapes were being harvested.

The second foliar application was put in place to further reduce the number of adults that overwinter. Of the 44 citrus blocks in the Bena Road area, two currently exceed the action threshold of an average of one adult per sample unit, 10 average less than one adult, and 33 of the blocks are at or near zero population levels.

At this point in time, no applications are scheduled for those blocks that average greater than one adult per sample unit.

We will continue to monitor GWSS populations in these groves over the winter months. This information will help us determine the fate of overwintering adults, focusing on whether or not overwintering mortality plays a significant role in moderating GWSS populations.

-- USDA scientists



GWSS counts increase in pilot project stonefruit

During the first week of November, CDFA staff noticed an increase in GWSS counts found in stonefruits in the General Beale Road Pilot Project.

Possible reasons for the increase in the stonefruits could be the harvesting of citrus crops, and/or the Surround and hydrated lime treatments recently applied in the grape and citrus crops, respectively.

CDFA will monitor any more changes in host preference as the seasons continue to change.

— CDFA

Citrus season keeps Tulare County busy

Members of the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office have been busy cutting Clementines (tangerines) from Spain for Mediterranean Fruit Fly.

So far, the ag commissioner's office has found three different labels with maggots in the fruit. All of the fruit from Spain in Tulare County has been confiscated and is in the process of being destroyed.

On the GWSS front, all treatments were completed two weeks ago in Porterville and Terra Bella. Again, Magnolia was not found to have an active infestation this fall. None of the groves in the quarantined areas have required mitigation to ship out-of-county.

So far, Tulare County has rejected approximately 40 loads of navels originating in Kern or Ventura (one load) counties.

— Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

No GWSS Update next week

GWSS Update will not be published next week, Dec. 15.