

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).

**Contact:**  
Don Luvisi  
Project coordinator  
(661) 868-6226  
dluvisi@bak.rr.com

Catherine Merlo, Editor  
(661) 588-0561  
cmm55@aol.com

**Web site:**  
[http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom\\_Program444/](http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/)

## Looking back at 2005's GWSS headlines

The glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) continued to make news in California—and even neighboring Arizona—in 2005. Here's a look at some of the year's top GWSS headlines:

### ● Kern and Tulare Counties approve Table Grape Pest and Disease Control Districts

In separate referendums, table grape growers in Kern and Tulare Counties approved the formation of two Table Grape Pest and Disease Control Districts. Now in the process of combining resources, the two districts will help the table-grape industry combat Pierce's Disease (PD) and GWSS and better position it to prevent new invasive table-grape pests from establishing themselves. Owners of local table-grape acreage fund the districts through an \$8 per-acre assessment.

Paul Giboney, of M. Caratan, Inc., was elected chairman of the Kern district; Max Jehle, a pest management specialist with Sunview Vineyards, was chosen as Tulare district chairman. A search is underway for an executive director of handle the district's day-to-day operations.

### ● Napa County finds GWSS egg masses

Between February and March, Napa County made three GWSS findings on nursery stock, alarming the area's venerated wine industry. All three discoveries were viable GWSS egg masses.



No GWSS life stages have since been found in Napa County. Staff members with the agricultural commissioner's office continue to inspect incoming nursery shipments and maintain the county's GWSS detection traps.

### ● CDFA launches nursery treatment pilot project

Under the oversight of the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA), selected plant nurseries in Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties began testing the real world effectiveness of a one-time chemical treatment that eradicates GWSS in commercial nursery stock. The project is based on studies that showed a single application of carbaryl, known by its trade name Sevin®, or fenpropathrin, known as Tame®, killed GWSS nymphs as they emerged from egg masses on nursery stock.



A plastic sleeve encloses a GWSS egg mass in CDFA's nursery treatment pilot project. (Photo: Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office)

### ● GWSS discovered in Arizona

Several GWSS were detected in late August and September in southeastern Arizona when a male and female GWSS were found in a sticky trap that had been placed in nursery stock. The Arizona Department of



A yellow sticky trap in a Kern County vineyard helps detect GWSS numbers. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

## Special thanks

A special thanks to the California Table Grape Commission for its support of this newsletter.

(continued on page 2)



## Kern-Tulare **GWSS Update**

### Looking back at 2005's **GWSS headlines**

(continued from page 1)

Agriculture treated the nursery near Sierra Vista where the GWSS were found as well as nearby residences. To date, no sharpshooters have been found outside of the Sierra Vista area. Recent cold weather has helped halt the infestation.

- **California's wine-grape growers vote to continue assessment to fund statewide PD program**

The state's wine-grape growers voted to extend the assessment to continue funding research on PD and GWSS for another five years. The assessment remains at \$2 per thousand dollars of value for wine-grape sales. That's expected to raise about \$4 million a year for PD research efforts.



- **Parasitic wasp approved to help battle GWSS**

CDFA's GWSS/PD Control Program received approval in June from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to import, breed and release *Anagrus Epos*, a tiny, stingerless wasp that's a natural GWSS enemy.



Brought in from Minnesota, *Anagrus* is capable of surviving winter weather—an advantage that allows it to lay in wait in early spring and parasitize sharpshooter eggs as

soon as the pest's breeding cycle begins. It also produces as many as 10 offspring per sharpshooter egg, compared to just one from other wasps.



*The Sept. 7 GWSS find in Salinas, just 14 miles from the nearest Monterey County wine-grape vineyard, spooked the county's \$175 million wine-producing industry. (Photo: Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association)*

- **Solano County launches GWSS treatments after pest is found again in Vacaville**

In May, Solano County agricultural officials launched a new round of treatments against newly hatched GWSS egg masses and nymphs, less than a year after another sharpshooter discovery in Vacaville. Officials immediately treated the area. No additional GWSS have been discovered, and county officials continue to monitor and survey for the sharpshooter.

The May finds, located less than 10 miles from Napa County's westernmost vineyards, were thought to be residual effects of Vacaville's 2004 infestation.

- **GWSS found in Salinas**

A single glassy-winged sharpshooter was discovered in a yellow sticky trap in Salinas Sept. 7, the first GWSS detection in Monterey County unrelated to an incoming nursery plant shipment.

The find, an adult male sharpshooter, was 14 miles from the nearest Monterey County wine-grape vineyard. No additional GWSS have since been detected.

### **PD research proposals sought**

California's PD/GWSS Board and the University of California PD Research Grants Program are accepting proposals for research projects on PD and its vectors.

Research contracts will be awarded for one to two years, beginning with fiscal year 2006-07 (July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007).

The RFP document is available online at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/PdGwssBrd/gwPdGwssIndex.htm>.

### **GWSS Update archives**

Past issues of *GWSS Update*, going back to 2001, can be found at <http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter667.htm>.