

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).

Contact:

Don Luvisi
Project coordinator
(661) 868-6226
daluvisi@ucdavis.edu

Web sites:

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

Tulare's GWSS observations show importance of weed-free areas next to grape and citrus

An interesting observation was made last week by Clay Schroeder, head of our field inspection crew. He noted that on warm days GWSS were migrating out of citrus to feed on weeds in the groves and adjacent areas. Adult GWSS were seen feeding on sow thistle, cheese weed and Johnson grass. These insects were then flying back into the citrus trees.

This observation points out the importance of keeping avenues and areas adjacent to citrus and grapes free of weeds. Not only do these weeds offer winter feeding sites for GWSS, but they also may harbor Pierce's Disease and be an-

other source for disease spread during a period when active feeding in grapes is on mature cane.

We continue to prepare for the upcoming increase in GWSS trapping in the southern half of Tulare County. This effort will help us determine the location and extent of the low-level GWSS infestation between Strathmore and County Line Road. Recent increased trap finds in the Highway 65 project area of Kern County only serve to point out the necessity of getting this program up and running.

— Dennis Haines, Tulare County
Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Researchers share alternatives to conventional insecticides for GWSS control at PD Symposium

USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and industry partners have developed two new insecticidal chemistries that offer significant insect control properties with improved safety to human health and the environment, researchers reported at the Pierce's Disease Research Symposium Dec. 15-18 in San Diego.

Particle film technology. One of the two chemistries is particle film technology (Engelhard's Surround WP®). It's based on the inert mineral, kaolin, which forms a film that protects plants from insects and some diseases.

Among its features, Surround WP:

- is exempt from tolerance;
- can be applied up to the day of harvest;
- has a four-hour re-entry period;
- has virtually no mammalian toxicity;
- is listed as an approved organic production material.

Surround WP is unique among insecticides because it has the ability to repel

insects from plants, and prevents insect oviposition and feeding, which could prevent the transmission of PD. It has proven to be as effective as imidacloprid in controlling GWSS in citrus in recent small block tests in California.

Sucrose octanoate. The other new chemistry, sucrose octanoate, received EPA registration in 2002. It is made of food grade materials, is exempt from tolerance and has also shown levels of GWSS control that are as good as other conventional insecticides.

Research on these two alternative materials was conducted from March 2001 through August 2002. Gary Puterka of the USDA-ARS served as principal investigator.

Cooperators included: Don Luvisi of the UC-Cooperative Extension Service; Ed Civerolo and Kayimbi Tubajika of the USDA-ARS; and Matt Ciomperlik, David Bartels and Lloyd Wendel of USDA's APHIS-PPQ divisions.

USDA-APHIS funded the project. ■

GWSS meeting for Kern's grape, citrus growers set for Feb. 3

Kern County citrus and grape growers are encouraged to attend a meeting to learn more about the Kern County Pilot and Area Wide GWSS Treatment Programs for 2003.

The meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 3 from 3-5 p.m. at the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 1001 South Mt. Vernon Avenue in Bakersfield. It will be held in the large conference room.

For more information, contact the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (661) 868-6300.