

July 14, 2006

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) 868-0561  
cmm55@aol.com

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

## Arizona declares state of emergency after GWSS reappears near vineyard area

*Treatment to begin July 17*

The glassy-winged sharpshooter has reappeared in Arizona, prompting Gov. Janet Napolitano to declare a state of emergency.

Napolitano's June 26 declaration, which makes \$200,000 available to fight the pest, came after 22 adult GWSS were found in late June over a three-mile area near Sierra Vista. The southeast Arizona town, located in Cochise County, was the site of numerous GWSS discoveries in August 2005.

The number of this summer's GWSS finds has since risen to 83, Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) spokesperson Katie Decker reported July 13.

Agricultural inspectors have begun placing thousands of traps around the state and are looking for egg masses to determine the size of the GWSS infestation and better prepare for control programs.

Treatment is expected to begin July 17. ADA is seeking permission for treatment efforts from homeowners in the affected region of Sierra Vista.

Decker said the chemical materials Merit and Tempo would be used to treat the Sierra Vista GWSS infestation. ADA is hiring 14 additional inspectors to hang GWSS traps around the state, she added.

Under ADA's Exterior Quarantine order, shipments coming from several California counties must show they have been treated for GWSS before leaving the Golden State or must be certified "GWSS free," Decker said.

*(continued on page 2)*



*This summer, 83 GWSS have been found just 25 miles from Arizona's premier vineyards. (Photo courtesy of Keeling-Schaefer Vineyards)*

## Arizona's wine growers anxiously eye GWSS return

This summer's GWSS finds in Arizona's Cochise County — the second consecutive year the pest has been discovered there — are "a big deal" to the state's \$18 million wine-growing industry,

says Rod Keeling, president of the Arizona Wine Growers Association.

"The scary thing is that many of us felt GWSS wouldn't survive the cold winters in Sierra Vista," says Keeling, who operates Keeling-Schaefer Vineyards in Pearce, Ariz. "In fact, it appears the

population has grown. That's indicative of a possible second generation."

Sierra Vista sits about 25 miles from the Elgin-Sonoita wine-grape growing region. Designated an American Viticulture Area, the region is home to some of Arizona's premier vineyards, including award-winning Callaghan Vineyards. The state has about 30 vineyard operations, Keeling says.

Winters in the Sierra Vista area, considered high desert country with some vineyards at the 5,000-foot elevation, bring temperatures of 20 degrees F or lower.

Keeling believes Sierra Vista's GWSS finds originated from plant shipments from Southern California nurseries.

The state is responding appropriately, he says.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Rod Keeling is president of the Arizona Wine Growers Association.*

## PD Research Symposium slated for Nov. 27-29

Mark your calendars for the 2006 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium. It will be held Nov. 27-29 in San Diego.



*The future many not be so rosy among Arizona vineyards if the glassy-winged sharpshooter gains a foothold in the state. (Photo courtesy of Keeling-Schaefer Vineyards)*

### Arizona's wine growers anxiously eye GWSS return

*(continued from page 1)*

"Our friends at the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) have been doing their homework," says Keeling. "They have placed restrictions on the importation of nursery plant material from six Southern California counties."

Those measures are important because GWSS move so easily, Keeling says. "The territory between Sierra Vista and the wine growing area is open desert," he says. "There's a good possibility GWSS could migrate to the vineyards."

Arizona has 12 native sharpshooter species, which have never caused much problem because they don't feed on the woody part of the vine as GWSS do.

"GWSS is much more dangerous," he says.

Pierce's Disease, which GWSS vectors by transmitting the disease-causing bacterium when it feeds on vines, may have hit a Sanoita vineyard 10-12 years ago, says Keeling.

For now, Keeling is encouraged by ADA's GWSS-fighting efforts. He's also

waiting to see if GWSS can survive "outside of a suburban area in this climate," he says. There are few pest wine-grape problems among the state's vineyards because the climate discourages their population growth.

But looking forward, Keeling is concerned that the state's \$1.2 billion nursery industry doesn't yet see GWSS as a major problem. "We hope the nursery industry will become more responsible in dealing with GWSS," he says.

In the meantime, the state's wine-grape growers are taking the GWSS threat seriously. "The Department of Agriculture has asked if we'll place GWSS traps in our vineyards, and we'll do that," Keeling says. "This year, we'll also get more serious about certain practices, such as clean till in our vineyards."

Keeling adds, "Our hope is that we can eradicate GWSS, either with chemicals or Mother Nature."

—Catherine Merlo

**"Our friends at the Arizona Department of Agriculture have been doing their homework. They have placed restrictions on the importation of nursery plant material from six Southern California counties."**

Rod Keeling,  
Arizona Wine  
Growers  
Association

### Find GWSS program maps online

For online maps showing GWSS trap locations and finds, go to:

[http://  
www.cdafa.ca.gov/  
phpps/pdcp/  
gwMaps/  
gwMgmtMaps.htm](http://www.cdafa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/gwMaps/gwMgmtMaps.htm).

### Arizona declares state of emergency after GWSS reappears near vineyard area

*(continued from page 1)*

Those include the entire counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura, and the infested portions of Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Sacramento, Solano, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Tulare counties.

The Department's Interior Quarantine order stipulates that plants from Arizona

nurseries can't be shipped out until they've been treated for the pest.

Last year, the Department authorized the emergency use of pesticides to mitigate the risk of the pest spreading the Arizona vineyards. GWSS is the primary vector of Pierce's Disease, a serious disease of grapevines that has no cure.