

July 18, 2003

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).

GWSS-PD battle gets \$22 million in federal funds

The battle against the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) received a \$22 million federal boost this week.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the new funding Monday as part of the \$77.5 billion Agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004. It passed the House on a bipartisan vote of 347 to 64.

Included under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the funding will augment industry and state efforts to control GWSS, which spreads Pierce's Disease (PD) in vineyards. The University of California and other research programs studying possible cures for PD are also funded.

Surround use in citrus increases California red scale

Surround® Crop Protectant has been shown to increase California red scale disease when used in citrus, according to research by Beth Grafton-Cardwell and Chris Reagan of the University of California and the UC Kearney Agricultural Center.

California red scale is a primary pest of citrus and can cause both cosmetic and direct damage to trees.

Surround, produced by Engelhard Corporation, is a kaolin clay particle film material applied to crop foliage to create a physical barrier that repels insects and modifies canopy temperature. It has been used in California grape-growing programs, where it is used to repel GWSS and inhibit feeding.

Citrus growers sometimes use Surround to help prevent establishment in citrus of GWSS and stop the pest's movement to adjacent vineyards. In addition, Surround has occasionally been used to prevent infestation of harvested citrus fruit that is to be moved to uninfested areas of the state.

Surround has not been recommended for citrus in the area-wide management for GWSS.

"A well-known tenet of San Joaquin

Valley citrus IPM is that, to maximize biological control, citrus growers must minimize dust, fertilizers, whitewash and other contaminants of leaves, twigs and fruit," Grafton-Cardwell says. "Parasitic wasps and predators have difficulty gaining access to their hosts and prey through such barriers."

After becoming concerned that in-season Surround applications for GWSS repellency would reduce parasite activity, Grafton-Cardwell and Reagan conducted a trial in 2002 to determine the impact of the material on California red scale.

Results from the tests in a navel orange block in the San Joaquin Valley showed significantly higher levels of red scale in Surround-treated trees. Untreated trees displayed considerably higher percentages of paratization of California red scale.

"We conclude from this experiment that Surround treatments in citrus disrupt parasites and have the potential to escalate California red scale populations," notes Grafton-Cardwell. "While Surround is an effective repellent of GWSS, citrus growers should carefully consider the potential red scale problems that a Surround treatment could cause."

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- www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/
- http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/

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—Beth-Grafton-Cardwell, University of California