

July 22, 2005

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).

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GWSS at a glance

As California swelters in an intense heat wave, here's a quick look at various glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) activities across the state:

Kern and Tulare Counties —

Sharpshooter counts are on the rise, but totals remain low with finds of one to five GWSS on individual traps. "As this warm weather continues, we expect to see an increase in GWSS activity and, therefore, trap finds as they search for food," reports USDA's Beth Stone-Smith, who heads the area-wide GWSS program.

The referendum to approve a proposed \$8 per-acre assessment for Tulare County's Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District remains underway. Owners of table-grape acreage may vote until Aug. 9, when the ballots are scheduled to be counted at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Kern table-grape growers have already approved the \$8 assessment.

Riverside County —

Admire® treatments in citrus for GWSS populations in the Temecula Valley are almost complete. Ninety percent of the organic citrus



(Left) In the General Beale Road pilot project near Bakersfield, as well as other areas of Kern, Tulare, Ventura and Riverside Counties, sharpshooter counts are on the rise. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

Special thanks

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

GWSS Update archives

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



The two sharpshooters captured Thursday on this trap in the General Beale Road pilot project near Bakersfield fall far short of the hundreds per trap that appeared in 2001 when the GWSS program began. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

has been treated once with PyGanic® with a second treatment scheduled for mid-July. Even though the citrus has been treated, the full effect of the treatments on GWSS probably has not occurred yet. The area is entering a build-up of GWSS populations. Many GWSS nymphs are maturing to adults now. Peak GWSS numbers will occur by the end of July, carrying through to August. As a result, higher trap counts are expected until September. Officials with the Temecula Area-Wide GWSS Program remind growers that citrus is not the only source of GWSS and caution them to protect their vines.

Solano County —

Jearl (Jerry) Howard will take over as Solano County's new agricultural commissioner Monday. He replaces Susan Cohen, who has decided not seek reappointment when her term ends Aug. 24. You can e-mail Howard at jdhoward@solanocounty.com.

Solano County continues to focus on its GWSS infestation in Vacaville. Crews have treated recently hatched egg masses. "We'll continue to monitor and survey, revis-

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(Left) CDFA trapper Carlos Gomez checks a GWSS trap in a citrus orchard in the General Beale Road pilot project Thursday. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

GWSS at a glance

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iting any hot spots to double-check for any GWSS life stages that might have been missed," says deputy ag commissioner Linda Pinfold. "We want to make sure we do a thorough job."

Ventura County — High temperatures are elevating GWSS counts in citrus-

rich Ventura County. Although the county did not get funding for an area-wide treatment program this year—"the funds just weren't there," says deputy ag commissioners Alan Laird—it does have some \$850,000 to treat citrus acreage around plant nurseries.

At the same time, Ventura County also has monies left over from last year's one-time contract to treat nurseries for GWSS. Those treatments are expected to gear up soon. Nurseries, however, can't be reimbursed for the treatments until approval by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, which next meets Aug. 30.

Sonoma County — "So far, so good," reports Sonoma deputy ag commissioner Priscilla Lane. No GWSS have been discovered in the county, but budget cuts have cut its GWSS team from eight to two people.

Napa County — "No GWSS life stages have been found in several months," says assistant ag commissioner Greg Clark. "We're continuing to inspect incoming nursery shipments and maintain our detection traps. It's business as usual." ■

PD Research Symposium set for Dec. 5-7

The 2005 Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held December 5-7, 2005, at the Marriott San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, Calif.

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