

July 28, 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).

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## Round-up: GWSS fight continues in the West

California's six-year battle against the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) continued this week amid an extended heat wave that's brought temperatures above 110 degrees F across the state.

Here's a look at what's happening in several Western areas:

- **Arizona** - GWSS counts have increased to 118 in a 2.5-square-mile radius of Sierra Vista, in southeast Arizona, the Arizona Department of Agriculture reported this week.

The department has begun treatments and will hang more than 6,000 traps around the state to check for sharpshooter presence. So far, GWSS appears to be contained in the Sierra Vista area.



Sierra Vista, GWSS site.

"We estimate it will take nearly \$700,000 this year alone to hire the additional staff and pay for their transportation, hang traps and pay for treatments to eradicate this pest," department director Donald Butler said this week.

Gov. Janet Napolitano is reconvening her emergency council to evaluate the situation and potentially free up more funds, Butler said. In late June, Napolitano declared a State of Emergency due to the GWSS finds, making \$200,000 available to fight the pest.

- **Kern County** - With the first generation of GWSS adults now active, Kern County is seeing an increase in the sharpshooter's July population numbers, Beth Stone Smith, USDA's GWSS Program director, reported this week.

So far in 2006, area-wide GWSS treatments total 1,390.88 acres. This includes citrus as well as problematic windbreaks/hedgerows.

In the General Beale Project southeast of Bakersfield, systemic applications of the chemical imidacloprid have been completed on all but one windbreak, Stone-Smith said. Also completed this week was

an aerial application of acetamiprid to one set of windbreaks that continues to show GWSS activity even after the systemic application. Windbreak trap totals in General Beale equal 1,412 GWSS. Other traps in the General Beale Project total 1,604 GWSS.

Other areas in Kern County with significant GWSS activity involve mostly organic citrus acreage. An organic area in the Western Zone off of Highway 166 was treated this spring as well as an organic orchard in the Highway 65 area. Program officials are trying to get a treatment in place to handle GWSS activity in another organic citrus orchard in the Southern Zone.

"So far in 2006, we have 3,578 GWSS trapped in our area-wide program [in Kern County] as compared to 1,108 at this same time last year," Stone-Smith said.

Kern's 2006 GWSS counts, however, also compare to the 141,925 sharpshooters trapped in 2001.

- **Tulare County** - Stone-Smith also reported that area-wide treatments in citrus in Tulare County in 2006 total 2,422.75 acres. Included in these treatment totals are areas north and east of Lindsay, organic citrus acreage southeast of Porterville as well as the surrounding conventional acreage, and citrus acreage east of Terra Bella.



Tulare County is seeing significantly larger GWSS populations in and around organic citrus acreage. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

"As with Kern County, we are seeing significantly larger GWSS populations in and around organic citrus acreage," Stone-Smith said. "So far in 2006, we have 1,145 GWSS trapped in the area-wide program [in Tulare County], as compared to 261 GWSS trapped at this same time last year."

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GWSS trap counts in Kern County's General Beale Project have increased this month. (Photo: Catherine Merlo)

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Donald Butler, director, Arizona Department of Agriculture



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• **Ventura County** - The Board of Supervisors last week approved a Cooperative Agreement for a GWSS area-wide program, giving Ventura County \$4 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fight the sharpshooter.

"We hope to get more participation, especially from lemon growers, in the treatment program," deputy agricultural commissioner Alan Laird said. "In the past, there's not been a lot of incentive for growers to do GWSS treatments because we don't have the citrus/grape interface."

Laird hopes the county, considered GWSS-infested, will have an easier time of selling the treatment program now that complete reimbursement funds will be available to growers. Sharpshooter treat-



Ventura County hopes to boost citrus grower participation in GWSS treatments with its new \$4 million federal funding.

ments are voluntary for growers.

Laird said the county had seen a large population build-up of the sharpshooter in the past few months.

Ventura

County also continues to use state funds to treat nursery stock against the pest.

• **Monterey County** - County inspectors Thursday made their fourth GWSS find in less than a year. The discovery of an unconfirmed egg mass follows finds earlier this year in Pebble Beach and Carmel Valley, said Bob Roach, assistant agricultural commissioner. A single adult was trapped in Salinas last September.

County inspectors made Thursday's egg mass find on a nursery shipment arriving in Sand City near the Monterey Peninsula. The load had come from a Riverside County nursery. If CDFA confirms that the find is a viable GWSS egg mass, Monterey County will reject the load as well as another the same delivery truck was transporting to Salinas, Roach said.

Monterey County spent more than its allotted \$120,000 in state funds to fight the sharpshooter in the last year. "We're still waiting to see about this year's contract," said Roach.

"Winegrape growers here are very concerned," he added. "It's very important to keep GWSS out of Monterey County."

• **Napa County** - The discovery of two nursery shipments with GWSS egg masses in July now brings to six the total number of shipments with viable sharpshooter life stages found in Napa County in 2006.

The GWSS-carrying shipments originated at Southern California wholesale nurseries, said Greg Clark, assistant agricultural commissioner for Napa County. The GWSS shipments were either returned to their origination points or destroyed, Clark said.

The six GWSS-carrying shipments "are similar" to the number of sharpshooter finds in 2005, Clark added.

Napa County receives about 2,400 nursery plant shipments a year. All are required to undergo inspection for GWSS, regardless of their origination point. Napa County also requires plant shipments originating from GWSS-infested areas to be treated with either Carbaryl (Sevin®), or fenpropathrin (Tame®) immediately prior to shipping into the county.

In other GWSS news, the Napa Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District recently voted to use growers' assessment funds to help battle other pests besides GWSS and Pierce's Disease. Among pests of concern is the vine mealybug, said Clark.

• **Solano County** - "It's been a quiet season with no new GWSS finds this year," Ivan Godwyn, an agricultural biologist who assists in Solano County's GWSS program, said Thursday.

Trapping, surveying and biocontrol activities continue, "but nobody's found anything," he says.

In 2004 and 2005, GWSS infestations were discovered in Vacaville. But since treatment and plant removal in the GWSS hotspots near factory stores and a Wal-Mart, inspectors have not discovered additional sharpshooters.

"The department is continuing efforts to control the sharpshooter and to work toward its eradication," said Linda Pinfold, deputy agricultural commissioner.

- Catherine Merlo



GWSS egg masses were discovered in Napa and Monterey counties this month.

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Bob Roach, assistant agricultural commissioner, Monterey County