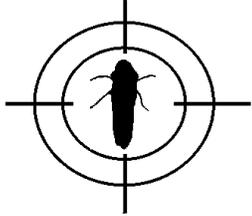


Kern-Tulare

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).

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GWSS monitoring program begins in Delano area

Grape and citrus growers in the Delano area of northern Kern County are set to begin a trapping and monitoring program for GWSS next week, in cooperation with several government agencies.

Details of the program's implementation were reported Thursday in Earlimart at a meeting of the GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. The meeting followed recent discussions on the need to collect additional information on any GWSS population that may exist in the area.

"Several recent GWSS finds on sticky tape and traps suggest a very low level population may exist in the area," says Don Luvisi, project coordinator for the GWSS Task Force. "An increased detection program is essential to better understand the program."

The program will encompass the area east of Highway 99, north of Seventh Standard Road and south of the Kern-Tulare county line. Growers will work with key entities of the GWSS Task Force: the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and the UC-Cooperative Extension.

Portions of the area within the boundaries of Highway 99 and west of the Famoso-Porterville Highway will be monitored by growers.

Trapping system. The area will be monitored with approximately 1,900 yellow sticky panel traps on 7-foot bamboo poles placed on a one-quarter-mile grid.

Each week, CDFA personnel will service all traps located along grape-citrus interfaces. CDFA will change the traps and collect data every week.

Contact Kern's Rob Wegis with GWSS finds in the Delano area

A grower finding any GWSS within the Delano area trapping grid is asked to report the find to Rob Wegis, supervising biologist with the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Wegis can be reached at (661) 868-6330. He will arrange to come out, collect and confirm the find.

Growers will service some 300 traps within their own vineyards where there is no citrus interface. Growers have been asked to check traps weekly and to change them every two weeks.

Reporting finds. “The best method to record the data is to leave the GWSS at its location and allow county personnel to collect it,” says David Elms, CDFA associate biologist who is supervising the effort. A photograph on a grower’s own yellow sticky tape should also be

Any GWSS finds on the sticky tape should be reported found on the nearest trap location. This will allow for continuity in the trapping data and provide for various forms of analysis at a later time.

All grower and CDFA traps were set up on their one-quarter-mile grid by Thursday.

“Each trap has been placed, numbered and dated so growers should have an easy time taking over

All CDFA and grower traps are clearly marked on the working maps. A white barcode sticker on the bamboo pole will identify CDFA traps in the field.

Traps and maps will be distributed each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner’s office in Delano, located at 455 Lexington. More convenient distribution methods also are being considered. Growers will be contacted in any changes are made.

The program area includes some 25,000 acres of grapes and about 25,000 of citrus. Roughly 20 growers are involved. The scattered GWSS finds were first reported in May. Area growers have been very active in dispensing sticky tape and traps to detect any possible GWSS finds in their vineyards. While they increased their own surveillance of the pest, they also asked GWSS Task Force agencies to help develop the trapping and monitoring program.

“Grower participation will be critical to the success of GWSS monitoring in this area,” says Elms.

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