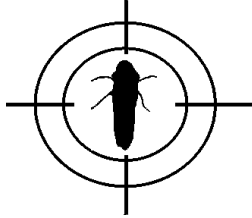


Kern-Tulare

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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Kern pilot project's 2001 accomplishments highlighted

The General Beale Road Pilot Project made several accomplishments in 2001, its initial year as a coordinated approach to finding solutions to the problems of glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) and Pierce's Disease.

Among its accomplishments, the pilot project:

- Organized stakeholder growers into taking action against GWSS.
- Organized a multi-agency collaborative pilot project (USDA APHIS and ARS, Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Kern Co. Dept. of Agriculture, UC-Cooperative Extension).
- Formulated and began testing an area-wide management plan and strategies in a diverse GWSS multi-host cropping system.
- Identified, tested and determined the efficacy of several insecticides, including "environmentally soft" or bio-rational chemistries.
- Investigated and successfully incorporated the use of a novel non-toxic repellent material (Surround® WP) to manage GWSS.
- Through intensive monitoring, identified GWSS population dynamics relative to host plant phenology characters.
- Demonstrated that the key to GWSS control is suppressing overwintering adult populations.

PD affects California with costly economic impact

Intensive outbreak of the disease will hasten exit of grape growers

In black and white, the numbers tell the story — and point to the possibility of a worsening scenario unless Pierce's Disease (PD) is stopped.

The economic impacts of PD on the California grape industry, documented in a recent study funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, point to sobering dollar losses.

In the study, Dr. Jerome Siebert of the University of California at Berkeley looked at numerous economic data to document the impact of the disease on the state's grape industry. Siebert presented his findings at the Pierce's Disease Research Symposium Dec. 5-7, 2001, in San Diego.

PD toll in North Coast, Temecula. Since 1994, Siebert noted, PD has cost Napa and Sonoma grape growers more than \$30 million in lost income, production and replanting expense. More than 1,000 acres have been pulled and replanted there due to the disease.

In the Temecula area of Riverside County, grape growers saw a dramatic downturn in income between 1998 and 1999 due to a sudden dieback of grapevines from PD. Between 1998 and 1999, wine grape tonnage in Riverside and San Diego Counties (District 16) dropped 35 percent, from 11,113 to 7,255.

"The value of this tonnage decreased from over \$9.8 million in 1998 to \$6.3 million in 1999," Siebert said. "That's a loss of \$3.5 million in gross agricultural income, or a decrease of 36 percent."

Siebert found that the lost production in the Temecula area also affected employment and state and regional income. Production losses resulted in less grapes for wine, creating a \$15.2 million shortfall at the winery level.

More ominous for southern SJV. The scenario could be even more costly in the southern San Joaquin Valley, home to California's five highest grape-acreage counties.

Fresno, Madera, San Joaquin, Tulare and Kern account for nearly 71 percent of the state's total grape acreage and 63 percent of the grape gross farm value. Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties also have large concentrations of citrus and avocados. Many SJV vineyards lie in close proximity to citrus, a host to the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS). Further, GWSS moves faster and farther into vineyards than other sharpshooter species, such as the blue-green sharpshooter that plagues the North Coast counties.

Calculating PD impact. Impacts are calculated by totaling the cost of numerous tasks associated with PD and GWSS. These include monitoring, replacement of diseased vines and training new growth; vector management (including pesticide applications); and sharpshooter host and riparian management.

"These tasks are substantial," Siebert said, "and will increase the cost structure of producing grapes in California."

He noted that returns to grape producers, especially in the southern San Joaquin Valley, are under great pressure, due to overproduction.

"It is likely that many producers will not be able to survive an intensive outbreak of PD, which will significantly add to production costs and capital costs of replanting vineyards," he said.

"While some of these producers may have been forced out of production in any event," Siebert concluded, "an outbreak of PD will hasten their decline and exit from the industry."

— Catherine Merlo

California grape figures

In 2000, California harvested 827,000 acres of grapes, with a gross farm value of more than \$2.8 billion, reports UC-Berkeley's Jerome Siebert. That dollar amount represents nearly 11 percent of California's agricultural dollar total.

Wine grapes is the leading sector at \$1.9 billion, or 68 percent of the grape industry. Raisin grapes are second at 17 percent, followed by table grapes at 15 percent.

Grapes comprise about 10 percent of California state agricultural total of 8.3 million acres.

Vineyard Establishment and Replanting Cost Estimates

Area, Variety	Establish Cost/Acre	Cost per Vine	Amortized Cost/Acre	Vines per Acre	Replant Cost/%
SJV wine	\$4,105	\$7.27	\$621	565	\$18/2%
Lodi Cabernet	\$5,949	\$9.56	\$381	622	\$31/2%
Sierra Nevada Zinfandel	\$10,173	\$17.22	\$1,013	622	\$105/5%
Sonoma Chardonnay	\$13,369	\$14.72	\$1,227	908	\$103/4%
Lake Sauvignon Blanc	\$8,640	\$15.27	\$834	566	\$47/2%
Santa Maria Chardonnay	\$11,985	\$11.01	\$736	1,089	\$256/5%
San Luis Obispo Cabernet Sauvignon	\$9,526	\$10.94	\$585	871	64/2%
SJV Thompson Seedless	\$3,839	\$7.40	\$378	519	\$22/5%

Source: UC-Farm Advisor Sample Costs to Establish a Vineyard and Produce Wine Grapes

A special thanks

A special thanks to the California Table Grape Commission and the GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties for their support of this newsletter.

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