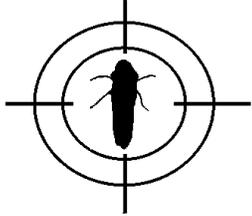


Kern-Tulare

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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Task Force meeting set

The GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties will meet Thursday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Bakersfield.

Plans take shape for second year of Kern's pilot project

Citrus

The numbers of GWSS detected in all of the citrus groves within the General Beale Road Pilot Project area are very low.

However, three citrus groves have shown low levels of infestation with adult GWSS, occurring from December 2001 through February of this year. It is unclear whether these adults have overwintered in those citrus groves or if they have received continued re-infestation from windbreak plantings. Therefore, we will be contacting those growers and asking them to apply Admire through their drip irrigation systems. This approach limits the amount of acreage treated with Admire to only those citrus groves that have shown recurring GWSS populations.

In addition to those groves identified above, four citrus groves have shown sporadic low-level occurrences of adults. We will contact these growers and ask them to implement a one-time foliar insecticide application to prevent GWSS from regaining problematic population levels. In these cases, our data does not support the idea that the groves were reinfested from windbreak plantings. Rather, it may have resulted from crop to crop movement of GWSS adults.

Windbreaks

On the topic of windbreaks, we would like to treat these reservoirs for GWSS with imidacloprid. This insecticide has shown considerable potential for control of GWSS over extended time periods. Label modifications for Merit (Bayer) are currently being sought that would allow for the application through drip

irrigation systems. This insecticide is labeled for use against GWSS, but cannot currently be applied through drip irrigation.

Grapes

A total of nine vineyards within the boundaries of the pilot project have had vines identified as PD positive.

We are concerned that these vineyards may pose a significant threat to the potential spread of PD to adjacent grape acreages. Therefore, we will be contacting those growers and asking them to follow a two-tiered approach for keeping those vineyards free of GWSS.

First, those growers will be asked to treat the vines with Surround WP for a total of three applications. The first application, if feasible, would be applied prior to bud break, with the remaining two applications made at intervals to maximize foliar coverage. The repellent nature of Surround to GWSS adults was readily demonstrated in the first year of the pilot project, and should prevent spring movement of adults to these vineyards.

Secondly, those growers will be asked to apply Admire following the Surround treatment, to maintain the vineyard free of GWSS throughout the remainder of the growing season.

Monitoring activities

All citrus groves within the General Beale Road Pilot Project will continue to be monitored throughout the year for the presence of GWSS and secondary insect pests. We will continue to use the sampling methods developed within the pilot project. We will, however, conduct experiments to refine those detection methods further. We will step up our vineyard monitoring efforts, looking for the presence of GWSS both in vineyards that have and have not had PD positive finds.

— *Matt Ciomperlik, USDA-APHIS entomologist*

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