

March 21, 2003

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).

IPM program using parasitoid-inoculated plants to begin next week near Bakersfield

During the past five months, all GWSS rearing activities taking place in Mission, Texas, have been rather intensive. Gradually, our production has been brought up to levels allowing us to initiate the first year of an ambitious biological control strategy in the Pilot Project Study near Bakersfield as part of an area-wide IPM program.

In January, we shifted to the production and use of *Euonymus japonica* plants (liners) recommended by D. Morgan (CDFA) not only as a relatively good host for GWSS reproduction, but equally important, as an exceptional plant in terms of cold tolerance, thus leading to GWSS egg conservation at low temperatures. This characteristic is precisely the one that has allowed us to accumulate, over a period of two months, an important number of parasitoids for our field trials.

Delivery mechanism. The parasitoid-inoculated *Euonymus* plants are the delivery mechanism used to release parasitoids in the field by allowing them to complete their development and emerge naturally under field conditions.

About 50,000 GWSS eggs were produced in February and March. These eggs have been exposed in equal numbers to four different parasitoid species: *G. ashmeadi*, *G. triguttatus*, *G. morrilli*, as well as *G. fasciatus*, which we only started to rear in Texas this year, thanks to adults provided by D. Morgan.

Releases next week. The parasitoid-inoculated plants are now ready for shipment to California, where releases will be initiated next week.

The selection of this release time is based on data collected during the first two years of existence of the APHIS-PPQ Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Emergency Program.

The collection and dissection of wild GWSS females also allowed to quantify the initiation of vitellogenesis (process of egg maturation), an activity carried out for the major part by the members of our GWSS field laboratory. These observations suggest that the wild females are close to beginning egg-laying in the field. Additionally, based on close weather monitoring, the field conditions are approaching the optimum time to begin the next generation of GWSS.

Field trials ahead. The rearing phase of this year's biological control program is almost completed. We all now look forward to the most interesting part still ahead of us: field trials.

However, because of the incredible amount of work our two teams have performed relentlessly, we also wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge everyone's collaboration and support. This would not have been possible without excellent TEAM WORK! Thank you all.

— Isabelle Lauzière, entomologist,
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Web sites:

- www.kernag.com/kpp.htm
- www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

GWSS/PD workshop held April 22 in Napa

Registrations are being accepted for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease Workshop being held April 22 at the Embassy Suites in Napa, Calif.

The registration fee is \$75, and includes lunch.

For more information, call Carol Lerner at UC Riverside at (909) 787-5089 or e-mail carol.lerner@ucr.edu.

Continuing credits for PCAs will be available.

The agenda for the workshop is posted at www.ucbugdr.ucr.edu.