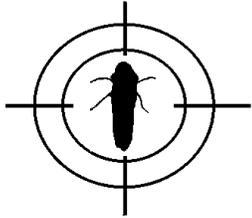


Kern-Tulare

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 County's citrus bloom declaration expected in late March or early April — if history holds

If the past is any indication of what's to come, citrus bloom for Kern County south of Seventh Standard Road can be expected to be declared in late March or early April.

While the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office has not yet announced an official citrus bloom date for the county, it is carefully watching citrus orchards and bee activity in anticipation of this year's declaration.

"The declaration is important to citrus growers in the GWSS area-wide management program because foliar knockdowns must take place before the declaration of citrus bloom," says Darin Heard, an agricultural biologist and weights and measures inspector for Kern County's Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards.

Toxic materials cannot be applied to citrus orchards after they have begun to bloom in order to protect bees.

An initial foliar treatment—designed to knockdown any over-wintering adult populations of GWSS—is a key part of the GWSS area-wide management program in Kern County.

Spring's arrival sees GWSS beginning to lay eggs

Sampling in citrus groves in the northern zone of the Kern Area-Wide Management Program indicates that GWSS adults are mating and beginning to lay egg masses. Twelve groves remain to be sampled to determine over-wintering adult densities, but across those groves sampled the average

Looking back: Southern Kern County citrus bloom declaration dates

2001	March 29
2000	March 28
1999	April 19
1998	March 31
1992	March 24
1997	March 25
1996	March 30
1995	March 30
1994	March 24
1993	March 31

*Source: Kern County
Department of Agriculture*

number of egg masses per tree was 0.04. None of the citrus groves averaged more than 1.5 egg masses per tree.

Based on these data, it appears that the cool weather experienced over the last few months is delaying the bulk of GWSS oviposition (egg-laying) somewhat beyond the time period we observed last year. No GWSS nymphs were collected during recent sampling efforts.

Refining the beat net sampling method

During the last few days, USDA field sampling crews have been conducting experiments aimed at refining the beat net sampling method.

Through the cooperation of several growers, we are attempting to determine the level of accuracy of the beat net method at estimating GWSS adult populations on citrus trees. We will compare the number of adults collected by beat netting foliage on half of a tree and full tree samples to whole tree population estimates.

Whole tree population estimates are conducted by: covering the entire canopy with a parachute, covering the area under the tree canopy with sheets of plastic, and then covering the entire tree with a single sheet of plastic. Once this is accomplished, the “caged” tree is treated with Evergreen (pyrethrin + PBO) to kill adult GWSS. The cage material is then removed, and the insect sample is collected and returned to the lab for counting. Finally, the numbers collected from the half, full and whole tree samples are compared. This will help us determine what proportion of the population of GWSS on the whole tree is being collected in the half and full tree samples.

We have completed 22 replicates so far and hope to complete a total of 30 by the middle of next week. Once the data is analyzed and we interpret the results, they will be presented in a future issue of *GWSS Update*.

— *Matt Ciomperlik, Entomologist, USDA-APHIS*

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