

March 26, 2004

Kern/Tulare

GWSS Update



A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. Participants: Agricultural Commissioner's 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).

Tulare County begins Admire treatments in citrus

Admire® treatments on citrus groves started in Tulare County this week as glassy-winged sharpshooters (GWSS) began stirring after their winter inactivity.

Most of the treatments are centering in the County Line-Avenue 2 vicinity as well as an area northeast of Porterville.

"So far, we have about 1,400 acres authorized for treatment," said Judy Stewart-Leslie of Pest Management Associates, the Exeter-based company serving as the GWSS area-wide treatment coordinator for Tulare County.

Stewart-Leslie said trap finds have revealed the presence of GWSS in low but repeated numbers in recent weeks. "In some traps, we're seeing one GWSS, and in others, maybe two to five GWSS," she said. "While the numbers are not real high, we know that some of these are in notorious problem areas, and we need to go after them."

Adding to the program's complexity, two irrigation districts, Lindsay-Strathmore

and Terra Bella, supply domestic water in some GWSS treatment areas. As a result, growers who use district water are strictly regulated when applying chemicals through their drip irrigation equipment.

"Right now, we're working with growers who don't have the necessary backflow prevention equipment to make sure we get the applications properly made," Stewart-Leslie added.

By controlling populations of GWSS in citrus, program planners hope to prevent the pest from transmitting its Pierce's Disease-causing bacteria to nearby vineyards. They also want to stop the pest's further spread northward in commercial citrus growing areas, allowing growers to continually ship their fruit "GWSS free" as is state regulation.

Admire is a systemic insecticide whose active ingredient is imidacloprid. It has been shown to provide long-lasting control of GWSS.

— Catherine Merlo

10 percent bloom stage dates announced for Kern; Tulare Co. announces citrus bloom date for District 1

The dates establishing 10 percent bloom stage for all Kern County citrus have been announced by Kern County Agricultural Commissioner Theodore K. Davis.

For all citrus south of Seventh Standard Road, the date establishing the 10 percent bloom stage was set at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, March 23.

For all citrus north of Seventh Standard Road, the date has been set at 12:01 a.m., Monday, March 29.

On Wednesday, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner Gary Kunkel declared the start of the citrus bloom period for citrus-growing District 1, will be 1 a.m., Sunday, March 28. District 1 generally covers eastern Tulare County.

Personnel with the Tulare County De-

partment of Agriculture and members of the Citrus Bloom Advisory Committee will be checking citrus groves in District 2 to determine when 10 percent bloom will be reached there.

The dates establish the beginning of a time period when the use of insecticides is greatly restricted in citrus groves to enable bees to work the citrus blossoms and reduce the potential of serious pesticide damage to bees.

The area within one mile of any citrus planting of one acre or more is designated as a citrus/bee-protection area.

All citrus growers, pest control operators and beekeepers must comply with the regulations covering the citrus/bee protection areas.

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- www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/
- http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/

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.

Fax changes? E-mail?

If you'd prefer to receive GWSS Update via e-mail or at a different fax number, please contact Catherine Merlo at (661) 588-0561 or cmm55@aol.com.