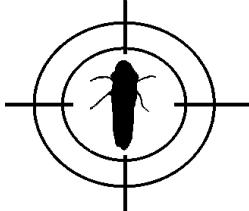


Kern-Tulare

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 area-wide management program progresses

Kern County's area-wide GWSS management program is quickly moving forward, with traps being deployed throughout its four designated zones.

The program will follow a strategy of trapping, monitoring and treatment based on successful tactics used in the General Beale Road Pilot Project over the past year. The goal is to manage GWSS with the intent of stopping the spread of Pierce's Disease.

Federal funds are available for compensating growers for treatment. However, not all zones initially will qualify.

"Primarily, only citrus growers in the North Zone will be eligible for reimbursement for treating groves this season," says Darin Heard, an agricultural biologist and weights and measures inspector for Kern County's Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards.

Growers will be compensated for one initial foliar knockdown and a later treatment with the systemic insecticide Admire®.

Advanced approval required. "We want to emphasize that advanced approval is required for the foliar and Admire® treatments," Heard says. "Only approved treatment applications will be reimbursed. A grower cannot proceed with his or her normal treatment program and expect compensation."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has earmarked \$3.5 million for the program. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has given Kern County \$751,000 for GWSS trapping and monitoring efforts.

"We want to emphasize that advanced approval is required for the foliar and Admire® treatments. Only approved treatment applications will be reimbursed."

Darin Heard, Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards

Foliar knockdown treatments are voluntary and made only when GWSS thresholds are met. Growers must first complete a compliance agreement, which is available from the Kern Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Meeting action thresholds. The action threshold for the foliar application is one or more adult GWSS per citrus tree. Two different sampling methods — visual and beat net — are used to determine the action threshold.

The foliar treatment is designed to knock down any overwintering adult populations of GWSS.

"All North Zone citrus groves are eligible for the Admire® treatment, whether or not they meet an action threshold," says Heard. "Even so, any treatments must have advance approval."

The Admire® treatments are meant to offer long-term control of GWSS nymphs and to control any GWSS adults that were missed in the foliar treatment.

North Zone focus. Because the North Zone, located east of Bakersfield, has shown particularly high levels of GWSS, it is the first focus of the area-wide program's treatment efforts. The North Zone includes portions of Edison Highway, Pepper Road and Breckenridge Road. About 8,500 acres of citrus are farmed in the North Zone, as well as 10,000 acres of other crops, including grapes.

"We are sensitive to GWSS populations in all four zones, but funding limitations demand that we concentrate our efforts where the insect's numbers are the highest," Heard says.

Boundaries. The entire area-wide management program is delimited by Seventh Standard Road to the north, and the areas east of Highway 33, west of General Beale Road and south to the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains. This area includes the metropolitan area of Bakersfield and several smaller communities surrounded by agricultural lands. The predominant agricultural evergreen in the area is citrus, including many perennials found in the urban landscape.

Vineyards located adjacent to citrus plantings in the North Zone may receive applications of Surround® WP. The Surround® applications will be applied in a one-eighth-mile buffer zone at the citrus-grape interface. Grape growers will be reimbursed for these Surround® treatments only.

Surround® WP is a clay-based whitewash product with insect repellency characteristics. Made by Englehart, Surround® WP is known as particle film technology.

Traps on a one-quarter-mile grid are being set up in all four zones. They will be serviced weekly.

Interface areas between agricultural and urban areas also will be monitored and treated in all four zones, depending on population levels of GWSS. Plans are being developed to release parasitoids in those urban areas. Parasitoids are natural enemies of GWSS.

Area-wide project administrators hope to begin foliar treatments in the next week. They are contacting area growers to discuss the program and compliance agreement.

The compliance agreement includes a list of materials that growers may choose from if they wish to participate in the program.

"Growers have flexibility with the materials they can use," Heard says. "We are aware that there are integrated pest management programs or concerns about residues that we have to be sensitive to."

-- Catherine Merlo

Successful Kern GWSS pilot project enters second year

The General Beale Road Pilot Project has entered its second year with the following objectives:

- Determine the accuracy of current sampling methods.
- Fine-tune the action threshold for applications.
- Work with grape growers to develop management strategies for GWSS and Pierce's Disease (PD).
- Adjust management strategies based on current GWSS population levels.
- Test the compatibility of selected insecticides and biological control agents.
- Attempt to integrate biological and chemical control strategies.
- Develop and implement biological control-based control strategies (in perennial cropping systems and urban environments).

Currently, the GWSS population in the pilot study is at or near undetectable levels.

New information obtained in the pilot project will be used in the area-wide GWSS management program.

— USDA

Stop PD early

All growers and vineyard managers need to remove any yellow or weak-growing vines. In fact, tests have indicated some of these vines *are* infected with Pierce's Disease. It's better to remove two or three suspect vines, especially in areas infested with GWSS. The alternative is the removal of many more vines if PD spreads.

— Don Luvisi

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