

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).

Fresno, Tulare counties implement Kern's 72-hour picking notice to help ensure GWSS-free shipments

The citrus harvest has started in the San Joaquin Valley. This year's harvest brings added challenges with the newly infested areas of Tulare and Fresno Counties. Precautions used in Kern County in previous years now apply to these counties.

Procedures for shipping unprocessed bulk citrus fruit changed at the beginning of the 2002 navel season. The changes apply to the San Joaquin Valley counties of Kern, Tulare and Fresno.

This year, each handler/packer must enter into a compliance agreement with the county. This agreement specifies the requirements needed to receive fruit, and enables the handler/packer to enter into agreements with their growers. The handler/packer is responsible for the distribution of green or yellow shipping tags to the growers it has under agreement.

More GWSS finds, new 72-hour picking notice keep Tulare County ag officials busy

Tulare County has completed treatments of the Woodville Labor Center, and will be moving on to a treatment of six residences adjacent to a citrus packing facility in Strathmore.

A trap located at one of the properties caught a GWSS on Oct. 18. Two nearby properties had multiple life stages present upon visual inspection. All six properties will be treated with Merit® applied to the soil and Sevin® foliar where unlabeled hosts are present.

Tulare County's general GWSS detection program is in the process of being shut down for the season. We anticipate starting up our urban trapping program again in April 2003. In the meantime, we will maintain our trapping programs at receiving nurseries and bulk-fruit receivers, along with visual surveys as GWSS is reported by the public.

The changes implemented a minimum 72-hour picking notice to the county commissioner's office where the citrus is grown. This allows the county sufficient time to inspect the grove for the presence or absence of GWSS. If the grove is positive, the grower must mitigate before the fruit leaves the premises.

The bottom line is bulk unprocessed citrus fruit must move GWSS-free. Remember, this is for all citrus, not just navel oranges. It is still the grower's responsibility to ship unprocessed citrus fruit GWSS-free.

Contact your county department of agriculture if you have questions. The new regulations are available at www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/emregs.htm.

— Jack Marks, Kern County Department of Agriculture

The harvest season is underway for navel oranges. Now that Tulare County has a much more extensive infested area to contend with, our inspectors are being kept busy educating the industry on the new regulations and requirements. We are also providing pre-clearance inspections on citrus blocks under the 72-hour notification requirements.

For blocks located within a quarantine area (yellow tag), it's particularly important that we receive your 72-hour notification prior to harvest. Please fax that information to (559) 685-3345.

If you have questions regarding these quarantine regulations, please contact Bob Chilton at (559) 685-3323.

— Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Contact:

Don Luvisi
Project coordinator
(661) 868-6226
daluvisi@ucdavis.edu

Web sites:

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

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Jack Marks,
Kern County
Department of
Agriculture

PD/GWSS Symposium set for Dec. 15-18

The annual Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held Dec. 15-18, 2002, at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort in San Diego.

The symposium will feature presentations on the approximately 60 projects currently being conducted against PD and GWSS.

For more information, visit <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp>.



Kern-Tulare GWSS Update

Free living population of GWSS natural enemy, *G. triguttatus*, found in Kern County citrus grove

To date in 2002, the combined state-wide releases of parasitoids by the Bakersfield and Riverside GWSS biocontrol operations has totaled 290,000.

Of these, 220,000 were the new species from Southeast Texas, *Gonatocerus triguttatus*, double the number released last year.

Production and release of another new GWSS parasitoid, *Gonatocerus fasciatus*, from Louisiana, was started in August. To date, about 3,500 *G. fasciatus* have been released, and have been observed reproducing in field cages in both Central and Southern California.

The addition of *G. fasciatus* may increase parasitism of GWSS eggs earlier in the season, as this species was collected during a cool part of the spring in Louisiana when no other parasitoid species were present, suggesting that it may be better adapted for cool season activity.

Recoveries of *G. triguttatus* have been made at 12 locations in six counties

including Kern County.

In September, *G. triguttatus* was recovered from two eggs masses from a commercial block of citrus on the east side of Bakersfield. This is the first recovery of *G. triguttatus* in Kern County outside of releases made inside field cages, indicating that a free living population of *G. triguttatus* is searching for GWSS egg masses and reproducing in the field under the environmental conditions of the Central Valley.

All areas in the state where parasitoids were released will be intensively monitored beginning in the early spring for *G. triguttatus* and *G. fasciatus*.

Recoveries of parasitoids that have survived the winter are a strong indication that new species have become permanently established, adding to the complex of native natural enemies that attack GWSS.

— Greg Simmons, Bakersfield and Riverside Biological Control Facilities

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Greg Simmons,
Bakersfield and
Riverside
Biological Control
Facilities