

Nov. 7, 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).

## Guidelines offer ways to prevent the spread of GWSS during citrus harvest

With the citrus harvest underway, the Citrus Research Board is urging all citrus industry personnel to avoid taking glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) with them when they leave the groves.

Personnel who may come in contact with GWSS — and inadvertently move GWSS from an infested orchard to an uninfested one — include employees with irrigation, utility or wind machine companies, irrigation districts and agricultural labs. They also include packinghouse fieldmen, pest control advisors, field checkers and harvest crews.

Make everyone who enters your orchard aware of his or her ability to move this pest, and advise them to take the following precautions:

- Those who work in several orchards during the course of a day should schedule the route so they go to uninfested sites first, and then move to GWSS-infested orchards later. If moving from infested to uninfested areas, extra precautions should be taken.

- Empty picking bags prior to leaving the orchard, turning them completely inside out and shaking them to make sure any plant material or insects are removed.

- Carefully inspect any containers of fruit distributed directly from the field to avoid moving GWSS.

- Brush off clothing prior to leaving an infested orchard.

- Look for GWSS "hitchhikers" in autos and on windshields after visiting infested plantings. If GWSS are present, kill or remove them from the vehicle prior to travel.

- Incorporate methods of monitoring for GWSS into your standard citrus monitoring protocol and provide a listing for the pest on field monitoring documentation.

- Discuss the GWSS situation with colleagues at meetings and seminars to spread the word, create a more knowledgeable workforce and synergize a greater team effort.

### Equipment

Any equipment that passes through an orchard has the potential to move GWSS. This includes personal and company vehicles, ATVs, hedging and topping equipment, brush shredders, spray equipment, tractors, dump trucks, forklifts, utility and service trucks and portable toilet facilities.

Adult GWSS also can fly into open cabs of vehicles in the field, and egg masses can be moved on plant material. GWSS adults and nymphs can fall onto equipment, especially when the weather is cool and their movement is slow.

- Sanitize equipment by washing or blowing with high pressure, taking care to remove all plant material before leaving a field. Custom operators should be cautioned to sanitize their equipment before moving from one ranch to another. Those who are working in several orchards during the course of a day should schedule the route so they go to uninfested sites first and then move to infested orchards later. If moving from infested to uninfested areas, extra precautions should be taken.

■ *The Citrus Research Board has "picker information kits" available for distribution to labor contractors. Each kit includes a laminated card for posting and 50 pocket-size cards with photos on one side and a short text in Spanish on the other. The basic message of the text is, "Make sure you don't take this pest with you."*

*To order, contact CRB at (559) 738-0246 or at info@citrusresearch.org.*

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### Web sites:

- [www.co.kern.ca.us/  
kernag/](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/)
- [http://cekern.  
ucdavis.edu/  
Custom\\_Program444/](http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/)

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Citrus Research Board

## Kawamura to head CDFA

A.G. Kawamura, former chairman of Western Growers Association who oversees a 600-acre farm near Irvine, this week was appointed new Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture by Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.