

Oct. 12, 2002

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).

Summer's buffer zone treatments in Highway 65 area suppressed GWSS spread and increased knowledge

Buffer zone treatments in citrus in the Highway 65 area were implemented in July and August of this year to combat low-level infestations of GWSS for several reasons.

The understanding of GWSS population distributions at that point in time indicated that area to be the northernmost infestation of GWSS, with the exception of known populations in Porterville and Terra Bella.

Extensive sampling and trapping efforts showed that low-level populations existed from Seventh Standard Road north to the Kern-Tulare County line within citrus. In addition, small numbers of individuals were being captured on sticky traps and "hopper" tape in adjacent grape vineyards (May 24, 2002 *GWSS Update*).

Protecting a premier table grape region. Since this area includes one of the premier table grape growing regions in California, and Pierce's Disease (PD) is present, control efforts primarily were aimed at preventing further spread of GWSS from citrus to grapes. This modified treatment protocol would facilitate pest-free commodity movement, and prevent the potential buildup and northward spread of the pest in an area where PD is known to be prevalent.

To accomplish this, one-quarter-mile buffer treatments were made in citrus that was adjacent to table grapes to disinfest the citrus. Growers were asked to select their insecticide of choice that was compatible with their ongoing pest management programs.

Since the treatments only covered a one-quarter-mile distance from grapes, aerial application methods were considered to be more cost effective, timely and less disruptive to ongoing production practices than ground spray applications. Furthermore, treatments were made after sunset to minimize interference with daytime activities in the groves.

Grower coordination. All treatments were rigorously coordinated with growers using a carefully planned strategy, beginning along County Line Road and progressively moving to the south.

Application costs for citrus growers were covered from program funds, while grape growers were asked to treat at their own expense and to coordinate those treatments with nearby growers. Similarly coordinated control efforts, both within the pilot project and northern zone area-wide management program, have proven to be very effective.

A one-quarter-mile buffer zone adjacent to grapes was selected over larger amounts of area because of limited program funds. Similar "barrier" applications were tested in grapes yielding favorable results in the pilot project. Further, one-quarter-mile buffer treatments have limited impacts on beneficial insect populations, where treated areas become recolonized over time due to dispersal of the natural enemies.

Building knowledge. Information gathered on the efficacy of mid-season buffer treatments in citrus increases our knowledge of stopgap management tools for GWSS. Aerial application methods using a diverse group of insecticides have not been tested for GWSS control to date.

Although this was not a replicated and control type of experiment, we hope to gain a working knowledge of the efficacy of these type of treatments. If aerial applications are effective with particular insecticides at controlling GWSS, this management tool may be cost effective and useful in combating the pest in production areas that are isolated from urban environments.

Treatments in the Highway 65 area accomplished two goals: suppressing population to prevent spread of GWSS and PD, and increasing our knowledge base of treatment options for dealing with the pest.

— USDA-APHIS-PPQ Entomologists

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Web sites:

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

"Information gathered on the efficacy of mid-season buffer treatments in citrus increases our knowledge of stopgap management tools for GWSS."

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Entomologists

Find GWSS maps on the Internet

Maps for the Kern Pilot Project and Areawide Management Program can be found at:

<ftp://chiba.netxn.com/pub/agcom/gwss/fromCDFA>



Kern-Tulare GWSS Update

Tulare County to treat Woodville Labor Camp for GWSS

As part of our "High Risk" inspection program in Tulare County, we conduct visual surveys around all of our bulk fruit receivers and labor camps several times a season. This is intended to augment our trapping program and, we hope, provide the opportunity to catch GWSS populations before they reach trapable levels.

On Monday, Oct. 7, during our most recent survey of the Woodville Labor Camp, a small infestation of GWSS was located in some oleanders and citrus. A public meeting for the residents of the facility has been arranged, and treatment will be scheduled to begin next week.

All of the residential/commercial properties and orchards around the Odwalla Juice Plant have been treated, as

of Sept. 24, 2002. Since these treatments were completed, no additional GWSS have been trapped, and weekly visual surveys continue to provide negative results.

If you think you have found GWSS, we need to know about it! Only by accurately identifying infested areas can we make reasonable decisions about how to proceed in the future.

If you have a captured specimen, GWSS on sticky tape or in traps, please contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's Office. For those in Tulare County, your contacts for GWSS identifications are Dennis Haines or Daniel Bigham at (559) 685-3323

— *Dennis Haines, Tulare County
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GWSS Update delivery

For changes in your fax number, or if you'd prefer to receive GWSS Update by e-mail, contact Catherine Merlo at (661) 588-0561 or at cmm55@aol.com.