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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).

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Solano County continues to pursue GWSS

In the wake of June's GWSS finds near Vacaville, Solano County agricultural officials this week surveyed the boundaries of the city's infested area, concentrating on where treatment has not taken place.

"The latest effort is part of the extensive campaign to survey and delimit the immediate site and surrounding properties, and to eliminate the pest from Solano County," says Roger Spencer, program supervisor with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

By September, staff members from the Solano County Agricultural Commissioner's Office had deployed 842 traps in a one-mile area surrounding the infested area, located near several commercial properties along Interstate 80. CDFA helped check traps, which are now serviced every other week.

"We may adjust future trap totals due to traffic safety concerns around some of the trap locations," Spencer says.

No GWSS were found from Sept. 13-Sept. 24.

Ornamental trees and shrubs in the infested Vacaville area have been treated with the foliar materials, Merit® (imidacloprid) and Tempo® (cyfluthrin). Merit also has been injected into the soil to provide control for about a year. Soil injections also are being made on nearby properties to prevent the sharpshooter's spread. The insecticides kill both GWSS adults and nymphs when they feed on treated plants. Treated sites included two commercial and 203 residential properties in September.

A biological control agent, *Gonatocerus triguttatus*, also is being used to help control GWSS. This tiny, stingerless, parasitic wasp deposits its eggs in the larger GWSS egg masses, killing them as the wasps develop. The county released 1,600 wasps into crepe myrtle trees in Vacaville from late August through



Officials in Solano and Sacramento counties are releasing parasitic wasps, like this *Gonatocerus triguttatus*, to help treat GWSS. (Photo: David Morgan)

mid-September. Three hundred of them were let loose outside the new Kohl's department store on Orange Drive. The rest were released near a vacant restaurant located at the corner of Orange Drive and Orange Blossom Circle and the vacant Nut Tree property on Monte Vista Avenue north of Interstate 80.

In August, the Solano County library in Vacaville allowed the agricultural commissioner's office to use a display case to exhibit samples of various GWSS life stages. Also included were yellow sticky panel traps and display boards carrying information on the science of GWSS, frequently asked questions, ways the public can help combat the pest, and family activities.

"The public in Solano County can help by keeping an eye out for the sharpshooter and contacting the Solano County Agriculture Department," Spencer says.

The Solano County ag department is located at 501 Texas St. in Fairfield, near Vacaville. Its phone number is (707) 421-7465.

Sacramento County carries on GWSS activities

Different life stages of glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) were detected in late September in the Sacramento County community of Foothill Farms. The finds were made within the previous delimitation area, established when the pest was discovered there a year ago.

In nearby Rancho Cordova, 500 parasitic wasps were released Oct. 1 on each of five properties that have repeatedly harbored GWSS populations. The releases, totaling 2,500 wasps, marked the first time that biological control agents have been released in the area.