

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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Preventing the spread of GWSS during citrus harvest

With the citrus harvest approaching, the Citrus Research Board is urging all citrus industry personnel to be aware of preventing the spread of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). The Board offers the following guidelines.

Identification

All citrus industry personnel should learn to identify GWSS and signs of GWSS infestation. They should be familiar with the basic identification of all stages of GWSS, including egg masses, nymphs and adults. Report any suspected infestations to someone knowledgeable.

Good references to consult are the CDFA Internet site (<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/gwss>), which is frequently updated, or local University of California-Cooperative Extension farm advisors.

Personnel

Any personnel can inadvertently move GWSS from an infested orchard to another. Personnel may include:

- Irrigation and utility companies
- Pest control advisors and field checkers
- Irrigation districts
- Packinghouse fieldmen
- Wind machine companies
- Agricultural labs
- Harvest crews

Make them aware of their ability to move this pest. 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 areas first and then move to infested orchards later. If moving from infested to uninfested areas, extra precaution should be taken.

- Empty picking bags prior to leaving an orchard, shaking them out to make sure any plant material or insects are removed. Research has shown that GWSS can survive overnight in picking bags. Turning bags inside out before leaving infested orchards should be a top priority for minimizing the spread of

GWSS to uninfested orchards.

- 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 them or, at a minimum, remove them from the vehicle prior to travel.

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

Discuss the GWSS situation with colleagues at meetings or seminars to "spread the word," create a more knowledgeable work force and synergize a greater team effort.

Equipment of concern

Anything that passes through an orchard can be of concern in spreading GWSS. This can include:

- Personal and company vehicles
- ATVs
- Brush shredders
- Dump trucks
- Hedging and topping equipment
- Utility and service trucks
- Portable toilet facilities
- Tractors
- Spray equipment
- Forklifts

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. Caution custom operators to sanitize their equipment before moving from one ranch to another. 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 infested orchards later. If moving from infested to uninfested areas, take extra precaution. □

Anything that passes through an orchard can be of concern in spreading GWSS.

Kern's ag department processing application reimbursements

The Kern County Department of Agriculture is now processing reimbursements for authorized applications to control GWSS. If you have any questions, call the department at (661) 868-6300.