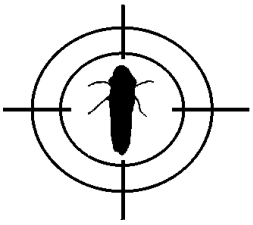
Kern-Tulare GWSS Update



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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State PD Task Force to meet

The State Pierce's Disease Task Force will meet Oct. 1 in Sacramento.

GWSS goes on display at Kern County Fair

Kern County's Department of Agriculture will have two displays at the Kern County Fair Sept. 26 - Oct. 7 in Bakersfield. One will encompass county-wide crops as well as GWSS information. The second booth will be erected by its employee association, the Kern County Agricultural & Measurement Standards Association.

View sticky-trap maps online

Growers can check the Kern Ag Web site to view past and current sticky trap maps for the pilot project area. You can find them at www.kernag. com/kpp/maps.htm.

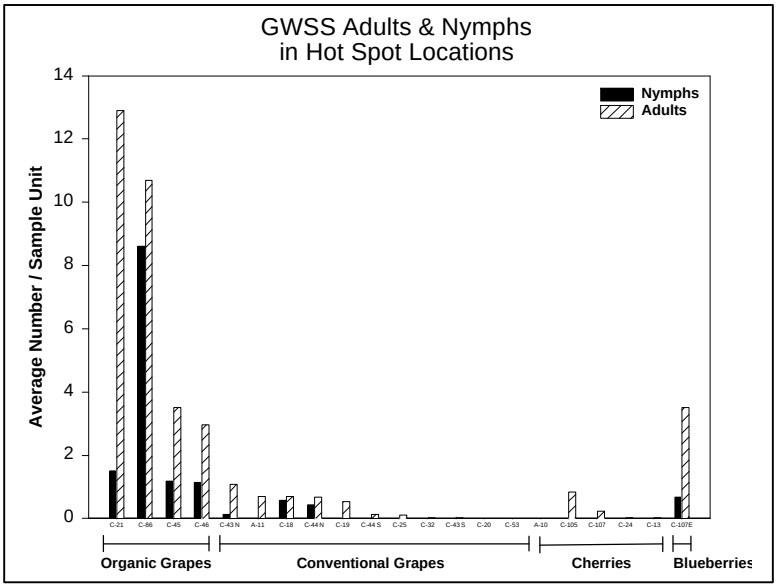
The sticky trap map can be a useful tool in focusing attention on problematic areas, but direct sampling should be the deciding factor before management decisions are made.

Limited acreage in pilot project still problematic

Most of the 13,000 acres within the General Beale Road area of the pilot project appear to have very low or undetectable levels of GWSS adults and nymphs. However, recent efforts have focused on areas that are still showing adult GWSS on sticky traps.

USDA sampling crews have been conducting direct sampling in problematic "hot spot" areas, sampling grapes, cherries and blueberries for the presence of GWSS. These efforts indicate that approximately 13 percent of the pilot project area still has detectable levels of GWSS adults and nymphs.

Our graph shows that GWSS adults and nymphs are still present in high numbers in organic grapes, and in lower numbers in a few locations in conventionally farmed grapes, cherries and blueberries.



Organic grapes seem to be especially problematic because there are few choices of organically approved insecticides that are effective against GWSS. Those growers are trying different approved insecticides and combinations thereof to bring the pest under control.

We have been in contact with a few growers who still have GWSS in their grapes and cherries, and are asking them to treat. Russel Carlson will be contacting additional growers asking that treatments be put in place.

Timely insecticide applications should further reduce GWSS numbers, bringing the pest population to the lowest it has been in several years. These final clean-up efforts will hopefully deny GWSS the ability to overwinter in small “hot spots,” and make management efforts much easier next year.

— USDA

GWSS gradually decreasing in Bena Road area

In the Bena Road area, CDFA staff has been observing an overall gradual decrease in the amount of adult GWSS in both the grape and citrus crops and also in the windbreak trees, which include eucalyptus and beefwood varieties.

Sharpshooter “rain” and whitewash, both results from excrement of GWSS feeding, have not been as prevalent in the past month from the eucalyptus and citrus trees.

The decrease in adults being caught in CDFA traps and signs of activity could be due to a combination of factors. Possible factors include a slight drop in temperature over the past month, the effectiveness from the previous chemical treatments used, and an increase in parasites.

CDFA staff service traps that follow the perimeter of the citrus and grape crops and have pulley systems with five to six traps that are arranged vertically up the windbreak trees. The traps on the pulley systems are set starting two meters from the ground up to 12 meters from the ground.

A comparison of the two different trapping methods in the Bena Road area has consistently shown that counts are higher in the windbreak pulley traps than in ground-level sticky traps around the perimeter of the field.

— CDFA-Pierce's Disease Control Program

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