

Sept. 3, 2004

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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## Tulare County mails reimbursement checks to citrus growers for GWSS spring treatments

Checks were mailed this week to nearly 150 Tulare County citrus growers, reimbursing them for coordinated spring and summer treatments to control glassy-winged sharpshooters (GWSS) in area citrus groves.

A new infusion of funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture — made possible through a renewed GWSS agreement between the county and the federal agency — enabled Tulare County to reimburse growers some \$874,000 for the latest applications, according to Bill Appleby, Tulare County's assistant agricultural commissioner.

"Between last fall's treatment and the one this spring, we've spent \$4.6 million and reimbursed for treatment on more than 54,000 acres," Appleby says.

The systemic insecticide known as Admire® was used in about a third of the treatments. The foliar, Assail®, was used in the rest.

Appleby says there will be fewer funds for the coming year but is encouraged that the treatments have reduced GWSS populations in the county, except for a few hot spots in the foothills near Porterville and Strathmore.

### Growers' "proactive" approach.

For Badger Farming's Rick Dunn, the treatment funds are money well spent. The farming operation has 4,000 acres of citrus in Kern and Tulare Counties. It has participated in GWSS treatments in both areas over the past three years.

## ATVs stolen from UCCE offices in Bakersfield

Kern County's University of California-Cooperative Extension (UCCE) office is urging the farming community to be on the lookout for three all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) that were stolen Monday morning from the



"It's good for us to be proactive on behalf of grape growers who face imminent problems with Pierce's disease if citrus producers don't participate," Dunn says. "It's certainly in our best interest to see GWSS excluded or suppressed because of the threat of citrus variegated chlorosis, a citrus strain of *Xylella*."

Program paperwork has been streamlined, making it easier for growers to participate, Dunn says. Reimbursements have been "prompt" and "as promised" in both Kern and Tulare Counties.

The GWSS treatments have not meant economic hardship for Badger Farming, the farming branch of Sequoia Orange Company. "Neither have we suffered any ill effects in the ecology of the orchards," Dunn adds.

Dunn believes the next year or two are critical for the success of the program in Tulare County. "The longer GWSS containment is delayed, the larger the area that's infested, and then it becomes economically impossible to achieve anything approaching eradication," he says.

—Catherine Merlo

A Tulare County citrus grove is treated for GWSS. (Photo: Neil O'Connell, UCCE-Tulare County)

**"It's good for us to be proactive on behalf of grape growers who face imminent problems with Pierce's disease if citrus producers don't participate."**

—Tulare County citrus grower Rick Dunn, Badger Farming

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## Kern-Tulare GWSS Update

### ATVs stolen from UCCE offices in Bakersfield

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search staffers as they surveyed Kern County vineyards under the Pierce's Disease (PD) monitoring and control program.

"We were scheduled to start our 2004-05 PD project Monday, Sept. 6," says Jennifer Hashim, UCCE viticulture advisor. "The theft has halted our activity and we're scrambling to find replacements."

Two of the ATVs are federal property, owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The third belongs to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The ATVs sat inside a locked fenced area at the UCCE offices on South Mount Vernon Avenue when they were stolen.

Hashim asks anyone with information about the ATVs to contact the Bakersfield

Police Department's Officer Davenport at (661) 327-7111 or Detective Eric Fennell of the Kern County Sheriff's Rural Crime Unit at (661) 392-4367.

**ID numbers.** The stolen ATVs can be identified by the following information:

- CDFA's ATV is a red 2001 Yamaha Grizzly, model #YSM60. It has front and rear racks. Its Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is JY4AJ02Y51A016113.
- The two USDA quads are green and made by Polaris. Each is a 2000 Sportsman 335 model. Their license plates are A11268 and A11269. The VIN on one quad is 4XACH33A0YA328477. The other quad's VIN is 4XACH33A2YA322485.

### PD/GWSS Board unveils new logo

California's Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board has unveiled a new logo to identify projects carried out under its direction.

Created by the Board's outreach and education contractor, Brown-Miller Communications, the new logo will brand official informational activities, such as the quarterly *PD/GWSS Board Bulletin*, meeting announcements, Web site and brochures that share how assessment funds are being spent.

"The board had long realized it needed some kind of identifier or logo for its outreach programs," says Brown-Miller's Ken Freeze.

For the logo, the board looked at several different options. The GWSS in the bull's-eye had been used in its first newsletter. It was also an icon that could be pulled and used by itself as a design element. The board also wanted to use a grape leaf and for the logo to say "research" in some way.

"One of the big challenges was using

a grape leaf in the logo without it looking like the dozens of

other grape leaf logos already used by the wine industry," Freeze says. "The other challenge was showing that the board is all about research. After trying to incorporate research icons, such as a microscope or a test tube, into the logo, we decided to just go ahead and use the word 'research' but screen it back behind the name of the board. The end result is the finished logo."

The 15-member PD/GWSS Board directs funding from the state's wine-grape industry assessment and advises on numerous other issues pertaining to the sharpshooter and PD. The annual assessment helps fund scientific research to find a cure for the disease and to respond to GWSS infestations.



PD/GWSS BOARD

### Kern-Tulare GWSS Task Force to meet Sept. 15

The Kern-Tulare Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force will meet Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Bakersfield.