

Dec. 5, 2003

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).

Table grape growers urged to sign and return petition for GWSS pest control districts immediately

Table grape growers are being asked to help prevent the spread of Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) and Pierce's Disease (PD) by signing a petition to form a Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District.

Growers recently received the petition by mail. The GWSS Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties is urging growers to take a moment to review and sign the petition to assist the table grape industry in its ongoing fight against GWSS and PD. Growers' support is critical if the table grape industry is to be successful in controlling this vector and deadly disease.

To date, more than \$135 million dollars have been spent to combat GWSS and PD. There is, however, still much more to do. With budget cutbacks and signals from Washington, D.C., and Sacramento that funding will slowly discontinue unless the agricultural industry puts forward an effort to provide "leadership, organization and some level of funding," the agricultural in-

dustry must take the lead in developing a Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District to combat GWSS and PD.

Thanks to the passage of SB 633 by Senator Roy Ashburn, the agricultural industry now has a vital tool to meet the demands of state and federal officials while providing a vehicle to successfully combat GWSS and PD. Signing the Table Grape Pest & Disease Control District petition will:

- allow local table grape growers to manage the district and decide how to successfully combat GWSS and PD;
- keep all additional dollars provided by the district locally;
- show state and federal officials that the table grape industry is doing its part to combat GWSS and PD.

Petition should be returned by **Dec. 12, 2003**. Questions may be directed to Kevin Andrew, (661) 392-5002, Tom Avinelis, (559) 535-4739 or Jack Pandol Jr., (661) 326-8004.

PD Research Symposium set for Dec. 9-11

The Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held Dec. 9-11, 2003 at the Coronado Island Marriott in San Diego.

The Symposium will explore the latest research progress being made on Pierce's Disease and its vectors.

Cost to attend all three days of the Symposium is \$270. One-day attendance is \$90. Attendance registration fees do not include hotel accommodations.

For further information, contact CDFAs Athar Tariq at (916) 322-2804 or atariq@cdfa.ca.gov.

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- www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/
- http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/

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