

Feb. 8, 2003

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).

Plans set for 2003 Area-wide GWSS Management Program for Kern County

Plans to roll out Kern County's Area-wide Pest Management Program for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) were shared with growers and industry representatives Feb. 3 at the Kern Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Bakersfield.

The program marks the third year of work in the General Beale Pilot Study.

Scientists are finalizing plans to begin the initial phases of developing a biological control strategy in Kern County. GWSS populations in the area continue to remain very low. The challenge is to provide a long-term sustainable strategy that growers can use.

Moving forward in 2003. The goal initially presented to growers in 2001 was to reduce GWSS populations and maintain the pest status at a minimal level. Additionally, the strategy would embrace current pest management practices used for other citrus pests. 2003 will be the first attempt to utilize a biological control strategy as an augmentative approach in the Area-wide Program.

The Northern Zone is entering the second year of the program. This area extends from Seventh Standard Road south to DiGiorgio Road. It also spans the area from Highway 99 east to Towerline Road. It includes a large amount of citrus.

GWSS populations have been brought down to very low numbers in the Northern Zone, but the initial reduction was not as dramatic as in the Pilot Study. One of the key differences was the timing of the treatments over a much larger area. The biology of the insect, root flush in citrus and when the grapes begin to break bud are variables used in the timing of the treatments. GWSS reach their lowest population numbers between February and April. This is also when over-wintering females lay their eggs in citrus.

The timing of applications as developed in the General Beale Pilot Study is to treat the adult GWSS with a foliar insecti-

cide. The emerging nymphs will feed in tissue that has a systemic insecticide in the plant. The 2003 program will continue to follow this protocol this season in the Southern and Western Zones and in the Highway 65 area.

The fact that GWSS populations in these areas are lower, based on trap catches, means the decision to treat will be made utilizing layered historical data from these areas. Instead of using the earlier threshold of an average of one GWSS per tree, the program will use a treatment threshold developed by layering available data for a particular grove.

The program has collected information on GWSS populations from sticky trap data for the past year. This will provide us with historical data from these zones. We will also use trap data from this year as a second layer of information.

In addition to these two layers, information on treatments that have been made since the fruit harvest was initiated last fall will be used as a third layer.

The collection of infield data from direct observations by field crews will continue to be used, and will provide a fourth layer of information to understand the GWSS population in an area. This combined layering of data will be useful in a decision matrix for making treatment recommendations.

Need for coordinated efforts. It is important to remember this insect is highly mobile. The numbers we see on traps will vary from week to week in an area. Any disturbance in the groves caused by any cultural management actions, insecticide treatments for other pests, tree removal and trimming will result in fluctuations of trap numbers.

The mobility of the insect and the general infestations we see at this time are precisely why the area-wide management approach is critical to reducing the population

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- www.kernag.com/kpp.htm
- www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

“The mobility of the insect and the general infestations we see at this time are precisely why the area-wide management approach is critical to reducing the population of GWSS early in the season.”

— Lloyd Wendel,
USDA-APHIS



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of GWSS early in the season. Attempting to treat individual groves in a generalized manner generally results in some insects moving to adjacent groves. Treating all infested groves in a systematic and coordinated approach has demonstrated an area-wide reduction in GWSS populations.

Check with CRB for insecticide list. This year, the program will add additional compounds to the list for use in the foliar treatments. Included on this list are select insecticides published by the Citrus Research Board (CRB) as approved materi-

als for fruit entering the export market. The compounds will be listed in Appendix A of the compliance agreement in the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

As a reminder, it is important to continuously check with the CRB since the approved list changes, as Ted Batkin clearly reminded us at the Feb. 3 meeting.

Contact CRB at (559) 738-0246 or by e-mail at info@citrusresearch.org. Visit CRB's Web site at www.citrusresearch.org.

—Lloyd Wendel, USDA-APHIS

Tulare starts all-important GWSS trapping program

Substantial progress was made this week toward getting the ¼-mile trapping grid up and running in Tulare County.

The mapping, so necessary for accurate placement of the traps, has been completed. All the necessary field equipment is in place and ready to go. USDA has gotten the go-ahead for hiring the five trappers, and they are anxious to get started.

The traps we're using are the standard yellow panel traps that have been used in both the Tulare and Kern County programs. CDFA personnel will begin working with our trappers and placing the traps on Monday, Feb. 10. We hope to have all of the traps in the field by the end of next week.

I can't stress too much the importance of getting this trapping grid in place in the commercial groves and vineyards. The data these traps will provide will be crucial in setting up the comprehensive treatment program to follow.

For those of you who have vineyards in the grape/citrus interface, I encourage you to consider using the bright yellow "hopper tape." There is still a supply available through the Kern County program. When placed at corners and outside rows in the spring, there's a good chance that you will detect the movement of GWSS into your vineyards as the insects begin to migrate

and become more active. Early detection and treatment when populations are low are key to making this a successful, cost effective program.

With this year's warmer-than-normal temperatures, we might see early egg-laying and population build-up. On the other hand, early egg-laying can result in population declines if sufficient freezing temperatures occur. This was noted in Porterville during the spring of 2001 when a late-season freeze resulted in high mortality among early egg clusters. More work needs to be done in the area of winter egg viability and degree-day models to better predict oviposition peaks and valleys.

The quarantine efforts continue with very low numbers of rejections for infested out-of-county fruit. We attribute this to the success of the pilot study and area-wide project conducted in Kern County and the yellow/green tag system that allows us to better focus our resources.

So far this season, there have been no rejections of Tulare County fruit. The 72-hour notification program seems to be working smoothly, with minimal inconvenience for all involved.

—Dennis Haines,
Tulare County Agricultural
Commissioner's Office

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Find GWSS program maps online

Maps for the Kern Pilot Project and Areawide Management Program are available at:

<ftp://bigfoot.cdfa.ca.gov/>

The new Web page that will host area-wide management maps is well on its way. Check it out at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/gwss>. On the right column, click on "Maps."