

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).

Contact:

Don Luvisi
Project coordinator
(661) 868-6226
daluvisi@ucdavis.edu

Web sites:

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

Coachella Valley's GWSS levels increased in 2002

The table grape industry in the Coachella Valley is represented by 10,465 acres of producing vines. Since April 2001, we have used yellow sticky traps distributed uniformly at one-mile intervals throughout the Coachella Valley to monitor the seasonal cycle of adult sharpshooter activity.

We have found that average numbers of insects in the summer of 2002 were higher than in 2001, suggesting a trend toward generally higher levels in the Coachella Valley. Our data show that the majority of GWSS is coming from citrus, and very few are produced in vineyards or urban areas. This indicates that control strategies should be targeted at citrus.

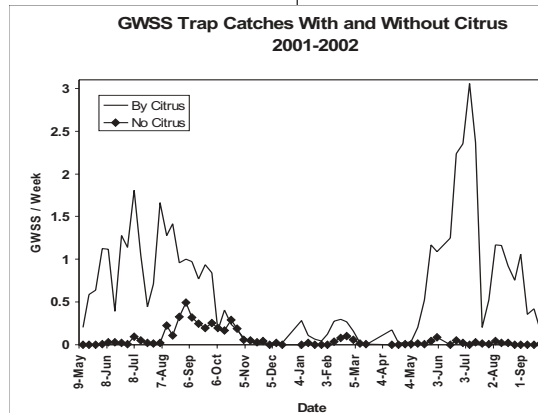
Recently, all citrus groves and vineyards throughout the Valley are being monitored for GWSS. Groves have been categorized by sharpshooter density to determine the fields that should be treated in the spring of 2003 during the vector-suppression program developed by the CDFA Pierce's Disease Control Program in concert with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Pierce's Disease. For the past two growing seasons, we have surveyed the

Coachella Valley for *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium that causes Pierce's disease on grapes. In the summer of 2001, we tested 233 suspected plants and none of them were positive for *X. fastidiosa*.

In the summer of 2002, we visually inspected 35,000 plants randomly distributed throughout the Valley and analyzed 268 suspected plants. Bacteria were confirmed in these plants with selective-media plating and PCR, amplifying for PD-specific DNA. The bacterium was detected on 13 vines in two consecutive vineyards in the eastern area of the valley. The vines were removed and the fields treated with imidacloprid. It appears that the Coachella Valley is at the beginning of the PD epidemic. How it will develop is unclear at the present time.

—Carmen Gispert, Thomas Perring and Chuck Farrar-University of California



“Our data show that the majority of GWSS is coming from citrus.”

Tulare County sees GWSS numbers fall from last year

The pre-clearance program for GWSS continues to move along efficiently. To date, we have inspected approximately 800 groves and required mitigation in 12. The growers have done an excellent job of controlling GWSS numbers in their fields, and the populations of GWSS in Tulare County remain relatively low.

On incoming fruit, we've inspected 7,200 loads of citrus, and issued six rejections at the packinghouse and six rejections at juice plants. This is a far cry from the 104 issued by this time last year.

We are still conducting trap monitoring at receiving nurseries, packinghouses, fruit processors and other sites deemed “high risk” for the introduction of GWSS.

Efforts are underway to set up a monitoring program in our commercial crops similar to that currently in place in Kern County. Once the new monitoring program is in place and has gathered sufficient data to determine where the populations of GWSS are congregating in southern Tulare County, we anticipate that a comprehensive treatment program will be initiated.

So, the good news is that we are seeing less introduction pressure from the bulk citrus movement and moving forward to control last year's outbreak of GWSS in Tulare County.

—Dennis Haines, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office