

June 6, 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).

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A surprise: Traps detect only low levels of GWSS in urban Bakersfield so far in 2003

Based on the successes of trapping for GWSS in agricultural areas, CDFA has contracted with the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office to set up a monitoring program in urban Bakersfield.

So far, nearly 700 sticky-card traps have been positioned in an approximate one-quarter-mile grid throughout the city. Traps are hung on primary GWSS hosts, such as citrus and crepe myrtle, and are retrieved weekly by survey crews.

To date in 2003, GWSS in urban areas have shown the same seasonal activity as in agricultural production fields (see graph below).

Overwintering females became active with the warm weather in early March, and remained active through the early part of April. By mid-April, densities of adult GWSS decreased as they finished depositing eggs, and also due to the colder April weather this year. Decreases in adult catches have been coupled with reports of nymph activity, and it is anticipated that trap catches will go up again in June or July as these nymphs develop into adults, marking the start of the second generation.

The greatest surprise to date has been the relatively low levels of infestation detected by traps in urban areas. Even during the week of peak adult activity, only 4.3

percent of the traps (25 out of 580) caught adult GWSS. Of those, 21 out of the 25 only had a single adult. Of the four traps with multiple catches, three (with a total of 25 GWSS) were near the intersection of Stockdale Highway and Highway 99. Hot-spots like these spawn debates over the need to implement augmentative biological or insecticidal control strategies in these selected areas.

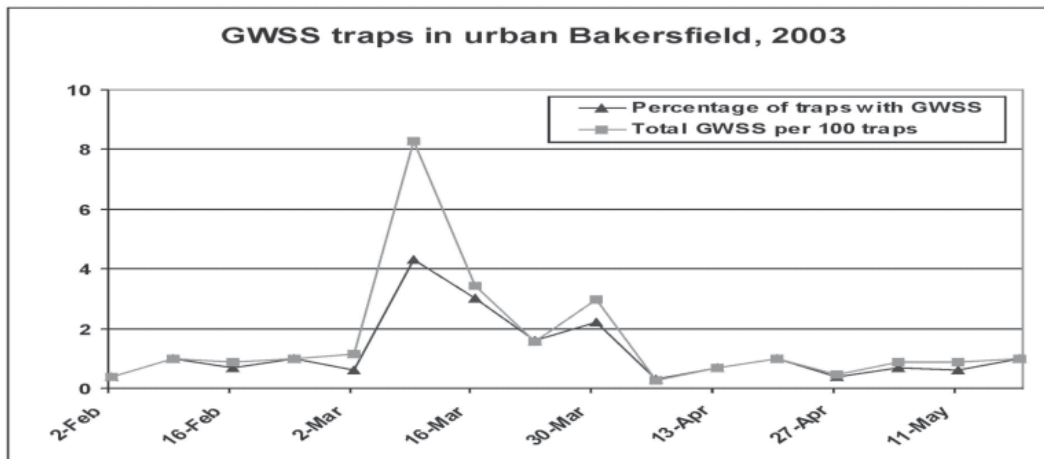
It is unknown why the densities of first-generation GWSS in urban areas have been so low. It is probably a combination of weather, biological control and the general reduction in GWSS populations in the agricultural areas surrounding the city. Regardless of the reason, the area-wide management team hopes these densities remain low. It will be paying close attention to trap catches as the season warms up and the second generation of adults begins to emerge.

For more information on GWSS, or to download maps that document weekly trap locations and catches in urban Bakersfield, point your Internet browser to <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/gwss>, and click on the link for "Maps," and then "Kern Urban Trapping."

—David Haviland, Entomology and Pest Management Farm Advisor, UCCE, Kern County

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