



## News from the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Les Wright, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER PROGRAM 2016 SEASON BEGINS!

Spring is here and the time has come to begin the Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) trapping, surveying, treatment and bio-control program in Fresno County. The treatment strategy will continue as a suppression effort beginning at the perimeter of known GWSS finds in 2015 and moving inward toward the core of the Cities of Fresno and Clovis. The goal is to stop the expansion of this destructive pest through effective treatments and the use of bio-control measures; while reducing the size of the infested area over time. The result will minimize the impact of this pest to ornamental landscapes and as a serious threat to agriculture.



The GWSS causes severe damage by feeding on a wide variety of ornamentals and crop plants. They prefer to feed on stems rather than leaves, using their strong sucking mouthparts to remove fluid and nutrients from plants. As a result of their feeding, they can transmit various plant diseases including Pierce's Disease. This disease kills grapevines and there are no effective treatments for it

The GWSS adult, a large insect is approximately ½-inch long and is dark brown to black, with lighter underside. The wings are partly transparent with reddish veins. When the adults and nymphs are newly emerged, they are grayish to light brown in appearance. The nymphs do not have fully developed wings.

Beginning March 1, homeowners will be asked permission to perform voluntary treatment on their properties. Treatment will begin on March 8, 2016. Treatments will extend along the edge of determined quarantine boundaries, or on properties outside of the quarantine boundary where the GWSS had been found last season. Treatments will consist of the application of a systemic insecticide by drenching the soil directly beneath certain host plants, or spraying onto the foliage of host plants.



*GWSS trap in backyard citrus*

Trapping with yellow sticky panels will commence on May 1, 2016. As done in previous years, traps will be placed in nurseries, commercial citrus orchards and in towns throughout Fresno County. In addition, traps will be placed around the perimeter of Fresno, the eastern edge of Clovis, and surrounding the Sunnyside area at a density of 15 traps per square mile. The 2016 strategy is for a higher concentration of detection traps to be placed at the edge of the quarantine boundary instead of traps being placed throughout the city. Bio-control efforts will



*Trap in a commercial orchard*

continue through the release of a very tiny wasp that is a parasitoid of GWSS eggs. Areas identified as "good candidates" for bio-control efforts will occur through consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Fresno County Department of Agriculture's Entomologist.

Each County of Fresno Department of Agriculture employee has been issued an identification badge and directed to wear it while on duty. Residents and growers are encouraged to ask for official identification badges carried by permanent and seasonal staff employees. If you think that you have found GWSS or have questions about our trapping, surveying, host treatments or parasitoid release efforts- please call the Fresno County Department of Agriculture at (559) 600-7510. You may also bring a suspect insect to the Department's Entomologist located at 1730 S. Maple Avenue in Fresno, Monday thru Friday, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm for identification.