



Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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News Release

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GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER PROGRAM 2020 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 2019 and moving inward toward 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 May 11, 2020, homeowners will be asked permission to perform voluntary treatment on their properties. Weather permitting, treatment will begin on May 18, 2020. 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 and/or treating citrus trees with a systemic insecticide tablet buried beneath the soil.



*GWSS trap in
backyard citrus*

Trapping with yellow sticky panels commenced on May 1, 2020. As done in previous years, traps will be placed in nurseries, commercial citrus and grapes, and residential landscape 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 2020 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 continue through the release of a very tiny wasp that is a parasitoid of GWSS eggs. Areas



Trap in a commercial orchard

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 Fresno County 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.