
THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture

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Glassy Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)



A progress report

The Glassy winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) is an insect native to the southeastern United States. It was first discovered in southern California in 1990 and is now found throughout southern California and parts of the Central Valley. GWSS is currently being controlled in the counties of Butte, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Sacramento, Tulare, and Santa Clara.

GWSS is a very effective vector of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. This bacterium causes diseases in a number of different plants, the most infamous disease being Pierce's Disease in grapes.

The potential spread of GWSS into northern and central California seriously threatens the State's agriculture industry. In order to slow the spread of this pest, the Governor signed an urgency statute on May 19, 2000, which appropriated \$13.8 million for detection, exclusion and research efforts statewide. In Santa Clara County, GWSS and Pierce's Disease threatens local wine grape and nursery crops, valued at over \$120,000,000.

What is the status of the GWSS in Santa Clara County?

Santa Clara County has an extensive GWSS program. One of the important aspects of this program is inspecting southern California nursery shipments to try and stop the introduction of this insect in our County.

Before any southern California nursery stock is shipped to Santa Clara County, the shipping nursery must satisfy several conditions. First, they must be under a compliance agreement with their home county. These nurseries are inspected routinely by their home county to insure they are free from GWSS. Second, before a shipment is sent north, the shipment must be treated with an insecticide. Third, when the shipment arrives in Santa Clara County, the receiving nursery is required to call our office for an inspection. This past year alone, our County has intercepted and rejected 4 truckloads of southern California nursery stock due to the discovery of GWSS. Having GWSS make it through so many barriers is a testament of the difficulty of controlling this pest.

In addition to nursery inspections, we are working to control three established infestations of GWSS in San Jose and Cupertino. We are currently trying to eradicate GWSS from these areas by conducting visual surveys, detection and delimitation trapping, treating the landscaping of properties where GWSS has been found, and releasing biological control agents.

Blossom Hill

The first infestation of GWSS in Santa Clara County was detected in June 2001 in a residential area near Blossom Hill Road and Monterey Road. The infestation has a delimitation area of 1.6 square miles. This season, door-to-door visual surveys and delimitation trapping resulted in the collection of 30 viable GWSS at 15 separate properties in this area.

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Pest Control Pop Quiz

Test your pesticide knowledge...



Some of these questions were derived from information from past Newsletter articles. Answers for these questions are located at the bottom right hand corner of the 3rd page.

- 1) A professional pest control company has category III pesticides stored in their storage shed. What posting is required to be on the outside of the shed?
- A. Poison storage area- if you don't work here stay out!
 - B. Danger, Poison Storage Area, Keep This Door Locked At All Times.
 - C. Danger Poison Storage Area, All Unauthorized Persons Keep Out, Keep Door Locked When Not In Use.
 - D. It's not required to be posted.

Question #2 is for Agricultural Pest Control Companies:

- 2) Before any pesticide application takes place, a notice must be given to a homeowner. What is required to be on the notice?
- A. The date of the application, the time the application will take place, and the brand name or common chemical name of the pesticide that will be applied.
 - B. The date of the application, the name of the pesticide that will be applied, and any precautions that must be observed.
 - C. The date of the application, the name of the applicator, address of the company, and the brand or common chemical name of the pesticide.

Question #3 is for Structural Companies:

- 3) Before any pesticide is applied to a home, a notice must be given to the property owner and tenant. Specific information must be given in this notice. Which one of the following pieces of information is required to be on the notice?
- A. The name of the applicator
 - B. The pesticide to be used and the active ingredient(s).
 - C. The signal word for the pesticide.

Senate Bill Restricting Pesticides in Schools Dies

July 2, 2003

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Jim Sanders, The Sacramento Bee, California.

Legislation to prohibit dozens of toxic pesticides from being used in California public schools was, according to this story, shelved Tuesday by a Senate committee. The story says that AB 1006 died without a vote Tuesday from the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, chaired by Linden Democrat Mike Machado.

The measure was strongly opposed by the pesticide industry, which claimed the bill could backfire by making campus pest-control programs less effective. The proposal could affect a sizable niche of the pesticide market, encompassing about 1,000 school districts serving 6 million students.

Opponents were cited as saying the health hazards are being exaggerated: Pesticides can't be marketed until they are approved by government agencies; extensive instructions are provided for safe application; and spraying does not typically occur when students are present, industry officials said. Risks from AB 1006 may outweigh its benefits, critics say, because hampering schools from using the most effective pesticides could lead to severe infestations of pests -- such as rats -- that can carry disease or pose other health hazards.

The California Department of Education took no position on AB 100

Question Corner

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to suggest a subject for an article, please drop us a note at:

Santa Clara County Agriculture:

The Pesticide Review

1553 Berger Drive

San Jose, CA 95112

Or e-mail us: sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us

GWSS in Santa Clara County

Branham

The second infestation in the county was identified in August 2001 in neighborhoods surrounding the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Branham Lane. The delimitation area is 1.3 square miles. This season trapping within the delimitation area has netted 3 viable GWSS at 3 individual properties.

De Anza

The third infestation was declared in May 2002 near Prospect Road and De Anza Boulevard on the city limit borders of Cupertino, Saratoga and San Jose. The infestation has a delimitation area of 0.4 square miles. This season, County staff have deployed and maintained delimitation traps in the area and conducted visual inspections of neighborhood properties in search of additional GWSS life stages. No GWSS have been detected in the Cupertino infestation area since September 4, 2002.

In response to the viable GWSS finds at Blossom Hill and Branham, landscaping in the vicinity of the finds was treated using Merit® (imidacloprid) insecticide in conformance with guidelines provided by the GWSS Science Advisory Panel. Merit is an effective control component in the GWSS program and complements the Program's use of biological control insects.

Our County has released 4000 parasitic *Gonatocerus triguttatus* wasps to aid in controlling the GWSS populations within the County. These tiny wasps lay their eggs within the eggs of the GWSS and kill them before they hatch. In March, a parasitized GWSS egg mass was recovered in Cupertino, indicating the parasitoids had successfully reproduced in the area.



To see pictures of the different life stages of the GWSS, we have information and pictures located on our website: <http://sccagriculture.org>

If you think you have found a GWSS, please call: (408) 918-4623. This number will put you in touch with our GWSS team.

North County Biologist Rotations

Your North County District Biologist Has Changed

Every few years, our department rotates biologists into a new district in the county. Each area is a little different than the next, and by switching, we get to meet new growers and businesses and become familiar with a different region of the county.

Our department has 9 biologist districts. The San Jose office has 5 districts, and the Morgan Hill office has 4. Our offices rotate biologists independently of one another and this fiscal year, it was time for our San Jose office to rotate district biologists. (The South County office did not rotate this year)

If you register and report to the San Jose office, your district biologist has changed to the following:

If your biologist was: You're new biologist is:

Larry Yamasaki	Matt Beauregard
Paul Khokhar	Stan Maggi
Stan Maggi	Michelle Nachand
Michelle Nachand	Larry Yamasaki
Matt Beauregard	Paul Khokhar

Biologist Phone Numbers:

Matt Beauregard	(408) 918-4614
Stan Maggi	(408) 918-4613
Michelle Nachand	(408) 918-4615
Larry Yamasaki	(408) 918-4616
Paul Khokhar	(408) 918-4612

Answers for the Pop Quiz:

- #1 is D (Feb 03 issue)
- #2 is B (if you're a structural company and you got the question correct, you get a bonus point! July-02 issue)
- #3 is B (if you are an agricultural company and you got the question correct, you get a bonus point!).