

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Marilyn Vernon, Editor

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

Staff members Gary Bjork, Pete Albers, Janet Adair, John OKeefe, and Bonnie Sallee have placed phone calls to all the nurseries and landscape companies in the county. Eighty-five landscapers and/or nurseries called indicated they received plant material from the area infested with Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS).

A packet has been sent to all the nurseries and landscape companies asking for their help in keeping this pest out of Sonoma County. In this information packet, we included a pamphlet with pictures of the life cycle of GWSS, a host list, and a map of the infested area. Any incoming plant material will be inspected by our staff.

Agricultural Commissioner John Westoby held a meeting for representatives of the local grape associations, pest control operators and advisors, landscape contractors and nursery owner on February 18, 2000. The meeting was called to form a pest management area to keep GWSS out of Sonoma County. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will take the lead in survey, detection, exclusion and treatment. UC Cooperative Extension under the direction of Rhonda Smith and Lucia Varela will be responsible for educational out-reach. Nick Frey, Executive Director of the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association, will lead a group of industry reps in raising money to assist in funding. Please contact Mike Smith of our department if you wish to be a part of this effort.

VINEYARD ORDINANCE

The Board of Supervisors passed the Vineyard Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance on February 1, 2000.

Gail Davis, Agriculture Vineyard Conservation Coordinator, has been helping growers obtain the proper permits for their site development. She has also been conducting site visits for Level I applications and for possible ordinance violations. She has been developing applications for Level II and III, as well as a County approved engineer list.

A website is being developed that will contain the ordinance, slope resolution, and a list of the County approved engineers.

Ms. Davis receives numerous phone calls each day regarding the ordinance. Growers have been scheduling appointments with her, so they will be able to begin their vineyard planting this spring.

HIGH RISK PESTS

On February 24, 2000, Mark Lubinski, an entomologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, trained the Agricultural Commissioner's staff on new high risk pest insects.

HIGH RISK PESTS (cont.)

A large part of the meeting included information on the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). Mark went over the life history of the insect and how to locate life stages on plant shipments. Mark brought mounts of the adult insect for staff biologists to carry with them when they inspect incoming plant shipments.

Some other pests Mark reviewed with the staff were Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, Olive Fruit Fly, Asian Long-Horned Beetle, and Red Imported Fire Ant

Market managers are now required to collect \$.60 per certificate per market day. The market managers will pay this fee to the CDFA on a quarterly basis. Certified producers are now required to submit a load list of produce sold each market day to the market manager.

Staff members Priscilla Lane , Jeann Nelson, and Marilyn Vernon attended a training session in Santa Clara County on February 16, 2000 to review the new regulations and their implementation.

GRAPE CRUSH

Senior Agricultural Biologist, Joseph Gray, reported that our wine grape sugar testers certified 3,400 loads of grapes, consisting of 57,000 tons. Sonoma County inspectors certified loads of wine grapes at eight wineries during the 1999 crush.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture released the preliminary grape crush report for the 1999.

DIRECT MARKETING

An informational meeting for Certified Farm Market Managers will be held on February 28, 2000. Janice Price from California Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Direct Marketing will be the guest speaker. Ms. Price will review the new regulations released by CDFA in December.

CDFA has sent out several revisions of the Certified Producers form. The new form now requires the grower to include their storage sites.

The new regulations also require certified producers to list other certified producers they can sell for, as well as certified producers who are authorized to sell for them. During a 12 month period, certified producers can sell for only two (2) other producers. This information is now included on each certified producer's certificate.