

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

John Westoby
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

2604 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone (707) 565-2371

April, 2000

Marilyn Vernon, Editor

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

The Agricultural Commissioner's staff has been busy inspecting plant shipments from Southern California at vineyards and local retail and wholesale nurseries. Biologists have been inspecting 40 -50 shipments a week from the infested area. The focus of the inspections at this time of year are egg masses on the underside of leaves.



There are currently two teams inspecting all 85 of our local nurseries that receive plant material from the infested area. In addition to the high risk nursery inspections, the teams will inspect 10% of the remaining 110 nurseries.

The teams are placing yellow sticky traps and looking at the plant material currently in the nurseries, and the traps will be inspected later in the month.

Our high risk pest detection trappers will be placing traps for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) in addition to their regular detection traps.

Senior Agricultural Program Assistant Bonnie Sallee has been placing yellow sticky traps in areas of new development.

The survey and trapping are being done to determine if GWSS is present in Sonoma County. If the survey and trapping come back negative for GWSS, Agricultural Commissioner John Westoby will be able to obtain a local ordinance against GWSS.

VINEYARD ORDINANCE

Vineyard Coordinator Gail Davis has been busy meeting with growers who plan on re-planting or developing new vineyards. Ms. Davis reports that most of the plans submitted so far in 2000 have been Level I development.

In addition to meeting with growers on Mondays and Fridays, Gail has been working in the field checking on both current vineyard development, as well as vineyards that were exempted in 1999.

Copies of the Ordinance and applications for Level I, II, & III site development and current list of approved engineers are available at the Agricultural Commissioner's office or at the Sonoma County website (www.sonoma-county.org)

Ms Davis can be reached at 565-2371. The clerical staff are able to set up appointments for Ms Davis.

PLASTIC CONTAINER RECYCLE

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office held a Spring container collection event on April 17 and 18. On April 17 empty containers were collected at the Sonoma Corporation Yard and on April 18 the event was held at the Healdsburg Transfer Station.

Once again, Sonoma County grape growers filled a large cotton trailer. The crew from the Ag. Plastic Recycle commented on how clean the containers were.

The Fall collection event will be held in November at both sites. Growers are encouraged to recycle their empty triple-rinsed containers, and bring them to this free event. For more information, growers can contact Pete Albers at 565-2371.

1999 CROP REPORT

John Westoby, Agricultural Commissioner, presented the 1999 Sonoma County Crop Report to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 18. The 1999 crop report cover features agricultural scenes from decades gone-by.

Gross agricultural value in 1999 was \$483,038,100. This value is \$29,503,500 more than the gross value in 1998. The gross value in 1999 was the second highest in Sonoma County history.

Fruit and nut values were higher in 1999 than 1998 due to the higher prices received for wine grapes. Livestock and poultry were up 8 million due to higher beef prices and a greater number of cattle and sheep going to market.

Vegetables, nursery, livestock, and poultry products and field crops all decreased in value in 1999. Some of the decreases resulted from lower milk prices and a reduction in hay and ornamental nursery production.

This year's report will be the last one compiled by Senior Agricultural Program Assistant Bonnie Sallee. Bonnie retired on March 31 and will officially leave the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on May 15.

Copies of the Crop Report can be picked up at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 2604 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa. Interested parties can also call the office at 565-2371 for a copy to be mailed.