

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Suzanne Ostrom and Dan Curtin

Arizona Agricultural Concerns Rise After GWSS Found

From the Kern/Tulare GWSS Update

Eight Glassy-Winged Sharpshooters (GWSS) and two GWSS egg masses have been discovered in Sierra Vista, Arizona, raising concerns over their potential to harm key portions of the state's agricultural industry.

The sharpshooters were first detected August 31 when a male and female GWSS were found in a sticky trap that had been placed in nursery stock. Although additional GWSS were later found, none have been detected beyond a one-mile radius of the nursery, according to Katie Decker of Arizona's Department of Agriculture.

Sierra Vista is located in Cochise County in southeast Arizona, less than 20 miles from the Mexican border. The area is Arizona's major grape-growing region.

The pest stands to threaten the state's \$18 million vineyard and wine-producing industry, as well as the oleander, one of Arizona's key landscaping ornamentals.

The initial GWSS discovery was made in one of 800 traps that had been placed throughout the state to monitor the pest.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture stated that an additional 140 traps were placed in key areas around the Sierra Vista nursery September 8 to determine the magnitude of the problem.

Renewal of State Issued Pesticide Licenses and Certificates

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has begun sending out license and certificate renewal notices.

M thru Z License and Certificate holders (Expiration 12/31/05): The 2006-07 renewal application forms are currently not available on DPR's website. However, they will be posted to the website shortly after the renewals are mailed and will be available for your use.

In early September 2005, DPR mailed renewal notices/packets to all individuals whose licenses and/or certificates expire on December 31, 2005. The renewal packets will contain all of the required documents and the specific continuing education hours, fees, etc. needed to renew your license or certificate. Please do not send renewal forms or fees prior to receiving your renewal packet in the mail.

In early October 2005, DPR will be mailing renewal notices/packets to all businesses whose licenses expire on December 31, 2005. The renewal packets will contain all of the required documents and the specific branch locations, fees, etc. needed to renew your license. Please do not send renewal forms or fees prior to receiving your renewal packet in the mail.

Renewal of State Issued Pesticide Licenses and Certificates (CONT.)

Also included in the renewal packets will be a "Questions and Answers (Q&A) Sheet" that answers some of the most common questions about renewing your license or certificate. Additional Q&A's will be available on DPR's website at www.cdpr.ca.gov. Please click the Licensing and Certification tab and you will find it under Publications and Outreach Materials.

If you do not receive your renewal packet by the end of September (individuals) or end of October (businesses), please contact DPR immediately by calling (916) 445-4038.

Permit/Identification and Private Applicator Certificate Renewal

We will be mailing out a letter in **November** reminding growers of permit/identification number and Private Applicator Certificate renewal procedures. Growers may call for appointments once they have received this letter. Appointments will begin in early December.

Fall Treatment Protocol For Vine Mealybug

A friendly reminder that you should be following the best management practices (BMP's) for the treatment of vineyards infested with Vine Mealybug. The BMP's require a fall insecticide treatment as soon as practical after harvest to help to control this serious pest. You can find the BMP's at the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association's website http://www.scgga.org/scggamedia/pdf/vmb/VMB_Winery.pdf

Grower Workshop December 1, 2005

Our 9th annual grower workshop will be held on Thursday, December 1, at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building, located at 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa. The workshop will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. with check-in starting at 8:15 a.m. The workshop will provide growers and license holders with one hour of continuing education in "laws and regulations", and one hour of "other" continuing education hours. **No reservations or fee required.**

Workshop Schedule:

8:15 – 9:00	<u>Registration</u>
9:00 – 9:05	<u>Introduction:</u> Stefan Parnay, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
9:05 – 9:10	<u>Year-end Review:</u> Lisa Correia, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
9:10 – 9:25	<u>Pesticide Use Enforcement Update:</u> Sue Ostrom, Senior Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist III
9:25 – 9:45	<u>What to Expect When We Do A Fieldworker Inspection:</u> Alex McVicker, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist III
9:45 – 10:00	<u>Website Demonstration:</u> Cree Morgan, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist III
10:00 – 10:10	Break
10:10 – 10:35	<u>Grape Mealybug and Vine Mealybug What Is The Difference? Why Should You Care?</u> Lucia Varela, Integrated Pest Management Farm Advisor, Sonoma County
10:35 – 11:05	<u>Vertebrate Update and Managing & Controlling Gophers:</u> Dan Curtin, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist III
11:05 – 11:10	<u>Closing:</u> Stefan Parnay, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner