

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG PESTICIDE RESTRICTIONS

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California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) habitat occurs in 33 counties of the state. In Sonoma County, CRLF habitat occurs in specifically designated areas. These areas are generally only in the southern half of the county. CRLF habitat covers small portions of areas within the following areas: Sears Point, Stage Gulch Road, Western Petaluma, Stony Point/Mecham Road, Bloomfield, Valley Ford, Estero de Americano, Coleman Valley at Hwy 1, and Hwy 1 at the Russian River. A map of these areas will be available on our web site soon. Please check the "What's New" portion of our web site to receive more information: www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/whats_new.htm

A court ordered injunction (effective 10/20/2006) imposes prohibitions for the use of 66 pesticide active ingredients within 200 feet using aerial application methods or 60 feet using ground application methods of CRLF's upland and aquatic habitats which occur in 33 counties, including Sonoma. Some of the active ingredients included in this injunction are: 2,4-D, dimethoate, glyphosate, oxyfluorfen, permethrin, simazine, and others. The entire list is available on the website of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at: www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/es/rl_frog/index.htm

There is no mandate for this injunction to be enforced by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation or county agricultural commissioners through pesticide regulations or permit conditions. It can only be enforced through citizen lawsuits.

From California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website, scroll down below the list of pesticides to a comprehensive power point presentation regarding this injunction. For more information, contact Arty Williams by email at williams.arty@epa.gov or by phone at (703) 305-7695.



California Red-Legged Frog

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

For the last six years the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the county agricultural commissioners have battled against the spread of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). This insect is of particular concern to grape growers because it is a vector of Pierce's Disease. When a vine is infected with Pierce's Disease, the nutrient transporting vessels of the vine are plugged with the rapidly multiplying bacterium and the vine dies. Sonoma County has a history of Pierce's Disease occurring; however, the local vectors are not as efficient at spreading the disease as GWSS.

Since GWSS was first spotted in California, the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office has inspected up to several hundred shipments a month originating from Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter infested areas. Each of these

shipments may have a few GWSS host plants included in them, or they may have hundreds of host plants. The number of shipments inspected per year has ranged from 1,792 in 2000 to a high of 2,990 in 2002. The number of shipments inspected per month has ranged from 53 in December 2003 to 440 in April 2004.

In 2006, inspectors in Sonoma County searched for GWSS in 2,434 shipments of plants. May was the high month with 357 shipments inspected and December had the low of 91 shipments inspected.

Currently our office is gearing up for the peak of the 2007 GWSS shipment season by hiring three to four seasonal staff to help inspect the GWSS shipments.



DOG TEAMS HELP KEEP PESTS OUT

Each day thousands of packages are brought into California through parcel delivery facilities and the United States Postal Service. Some of these packages contain materials which may harbor pests that would be detrimental to agriculture or may harm the environment.

Packages containing these types of materials are required to be marked and held for inspection by the carrier; however, not everyone marks the packages or knows it is their responsibility to mark them. Additionally, some are trying to intentionally smuggle fruits and vegetables which are illegal to bring into California due to the risk that they may harbor pests.

In order to ensure pests are not entering the state, County Agricultural Biologists visit package handling facilities to inspect packages marked as having plant material or fruit in them. They also inspect packages that they suspect have these materials in them.

Specially trained dogs can help in identifying unmarked packages containing plants or fruits. Funding from federal sources has allowed for two handler/dog teams in California, with one in the Bay Area, to work locally in keeping pests out of California. The handler/dog teams were trained to identify packages containing fruits, vegetables, plants and other materials that may carry pests into California.

These highly motivated dogs and their handlers spent ten weeks at a special facility in Orlando, Florida, training to identify packages which may harbor pests by working on the dog's odor detection abilities. The teams are working throughout the Bay Area and are scheduled to be working in Sonoma County during February and March.

The teams have only been working since Thanksgiving but have already had several finds of prohibited fruit in unmarked packaging, thereby preventing the potential introduction of unwanted pests and diseases.