

## SPRING AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC CONTAINER RECYCLE EVENT!

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The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will hold a plastic container recycle day on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The collection site is at the Sonoma County Healdsburg Corporation Yard, which is located on Alexander Valley Rd. in Healdsburg.

### Directions:

From Highway 101, take the Lytton Springs exit, turn right on Healdsburg Avenue, and then turn left on Alexander Valley Rd. The corporation yard is on the left, approximately 0.1 mile. This site is across the street from the entrance to the Healdsburg Transfer Station.

This event is open to growers, dairies, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Plastic containers ranging in size from 1 pint to 55 gallons will be accepted.

### Containers must be:

- ☞ Triple rinsed, punctured and dry
- ☞ The plastic lids must be removed
- ☞ All label booklets and plastic sleeves must be removed from containers before recycling; glued labels are okay
- ☞ **Containers in size from 30 gallons to 55 gallons must be cut into quarters before bringing to the recycle event**
- ☞ If possible; No cardboard boxes
- ☞ No metal cans
- ☞ 5 gallon buckets must have metal handles removed
- ☞ **PLEASE - No PVC pipe, plastic tubing, or containers that have held motor oil**

If you have any questions in regard to this event, please contact our office at (707) 565-2371.



## FIRST CASE OF EQUINE WEST NILE VIRUS IN CALIFORNIA IN 2007

In a press release issued on February 21, 2007, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced the first case of equine West Nile Virus in 2007 has been reported in California. A horse in Sonoma County has been diagnosed with the disease. The detection serves as a reminder to horse owners to make sure their animals are vaccinated. Last year, 58 horses in the state were known to have contracted the disease, with 24 deaths. In the great majority of those cases the horses were either not vaccinated or vaccinated improperly.

“Outbreaks of West Nile virus are expected to continue this year,” said California State Veterinarian Dr. Richard Breitmeyer. “Horse owners should contact their veterinarians as soon as possible to ensure current vaccination status, so that horses will have maximum protection against the disease.”

Signs of West Nile virus include stumbling, staggering, wobbling, weakness, muscle twitching and inability to stand. Horses contract the disease from carrier mosquitoes and are not contagious to other horses or people. Not every horse exposed to the virus will die.

CDFA is collaborating with state, federal and local agencies to detect and respond to the disease in California. CDFA is distributing a video public service announcement about West Nile virus and has taken a public education program directly to the equine community over the last several years, including tips on mosquito control.

For more information, go to [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov) or call the Equine West Nile Virus Information Line at 1-800-268-7378. Questions may be e-mailed to CDFA at [WNVirus@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:WNVirus@cdfa.ca.gov)

## GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER EGG MASS FOUND

Agricultural inspectors from the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office found one viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter egg mass on March 8, 2007, on an incoming plant shipment. The egg mass was found during a routine inspection of a nursery shipment from Orange County.

The egg mass was sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture entomology laboratory where it was identified on March 9 as a viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter egg mass. The egg mass was found on the leaf of a Carolina Jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), which is a common landscape plant. In this case, the eight plants were returned to the origin shipper that same day. The remaining plants were released after a thorough inspection was conducted.

The busy season for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program has begun in earnest over the past couple of

weeks with the warmer and dryer weather. During the past five years we have inspected an average of 1,726 regulated plant shipments for the months of March through June. Shipments range in size from a few plants to thousands of plants.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office remains committed to preventing the introduction of this serious pest into Sonoma County. Local nurseries remain very cooperative in this effort as well. We receive numerous calls every week from dozens of nurseries throughout the county who have received plant material from Glassy-winged Sharpshooter infested areas. Their support and cooperation has been critical to the ongoing success of our program.

The local wine grape industry continues to fund educational posters, videos, and handouts, the website - [www.bugspot.org](http://www.bugspot.org), and the toll free number 1-866-BUGSPOT.

# CALIFORNIA INSTRUCTIONAL SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM

~ FLOURISHING AND NOURISHING ~

## GRANT FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, AND/OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill 1535 (Nuñez) (Chapter 437, Statutes of 2006) authorizes the California Department of Education (CDE) to award \$15 million in grants to promote, develop, and sustain instructional school gardens. The grants will complement a school's academic program and create opportunities for children to learn to make healthier food choices, participate more successfully in their educational experiences, and develop a better understanding of food origins. Grant applications are due to CDE by April 20, 2007. Grant funding may be used through June 30, 2009.

The CDE is administering the non-competitive California Instructional School Garden (CISG) Program grants with advice and consultation from a statutorily established interagency workgroup, which includes the CDE, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Health Services, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board. These non-competitive CISG grants are available to California public school districts, County Offices of Education (COEs), and direct-funded charter schools.

### GRANT ELIGIBILITY:

Assembly Bill 1535 provides \$15 million in grant funding for the CISG Program. The grant funding can be used for garden equipment, supplies, and/or professional development. Public school districts, COEs, and direct-funded charter schools must apply on behalf of public school sites for the non-competitive grant. Locally-funded charter schools must apply through their district's grant application. School sites with an enrollment of less than 1,000 students may apply for a grant for necessary expenses up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500); schools with an enrollment of 1,000 or more may request a grant for necessary expenses up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

For an application and more information go to the California Department of Education's website at: [www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r9/cisg06rfa.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r9/cisg06rfa.asp)

