PD/GWSS BOARD RESEARCH

QUICK FACTS

PIERCE'S DISEASE AND GWSS

Scientific name of GWSS:	*Homalodisca vitripennis* (Formerly known as *Homalodisca coagulata)*
Description of GWSS:	Adults are 1/2-inch long, dark brown color with small yellow dots on head and thorax. Wing membranous, translucent, with reddish veins.
How damage is caused:	GWSS is a sucking insect that extracts fluid from host plants. This feeding can spread lethal diseases to host plants just as mosquitoes can transmit malaria in humans. The pest is highly mobile and can feed on and spread disease to many plants in a day.
Bacterium spread by GWSS:	*Xylella fastidiosa*
Diseases* vectored by GWSS (strains of *Xylella fastidiosa*):	Pierce's disease (grapes) - Almond leaf scorch (almonds) Alfalfa dwarf (alfalfa) - Oleander leaf scorch (oleander) Phony peach disease (peaches) - Plum leaf scald (plums) Citrus variegated chlorosis (citrus) *(Only a partial list)*
How disease kills plants:	The bacterium attacks a plant's xylem (water-conducting vessels), thereby clogging it
How long Pierce's disease has been in state:	Since at least the 1880s, when it wiped out 40,000 acres of winegrapes in the Los Angeles Basin
GWSS host plants:	Over 300 genera species of plants
GWSS first sighted in California:	1989
Distribution:	Southeastern United States and northeastern Mexico. Range has extended into southern and central California
Number of counties with GWSS-infested areas (2013):	**14**: Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Tulare, Ventura
Threat to state:	$61.5 billion to the winegrape industry alone (Based on economic impact study of 2009)

For more information, contact Brown-Miller Communications at (925) 370-9777 or bmc@browmillerpr.com

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