SHARPSHOOTER IS A MULTIPLE THREAT

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter is a serious threat to the state's economy and ecology. This pest has the potential to seriously disrupt the state's agricultural economy and the 1.1 million jobs that are related to agriculture. But it also is a threat to the quality of life of all Californians and could imperil the state's native habitat.

The threat of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease is widely known in the state's grape industry. The state's 450,000-plus acres of winegrapes are at risk of potential infection by Pierce's Disease. More than 330,000 acres of raisin and table grapevines are also in jeopardy. The GWSS is an effective vector for Pierce's disease because it is more mobile than other leafhoppers that can transmit the bacteria. The insect uses its needle-like mouth to tap into the water-conducting tissues of a plant. In addition to its mobility and its varied food sources, it is dangerous because of its ability to move a large quantity of plant juices(equivalent to a 150-pound human drinking 4,300 gallons of water a day) through its system in a day. In feeding on plants, the pest can infect them with lethal diseases, such as Pierce's Disease in grapevines.

Because of the Sharpshooter's mobility and voracious feeding habits, the threat is not only to vineyards but also to other crops such as almonds, citrus and peaches. The bacterium *Xyllela fastidiosa* that causes Pierce's Disease also causes serious diseases in other plants that host the Sharpshooter.

The GWSS host list includes more than 100 species of plants. These include commercial crops such as almonds, citrus, peaches, plums, alfalfa and many ornamental plants produced by the state's commercial nursery industry. The combination of Pierce's Disease and a highly mobile vector creates a dynamic and dangerous situation for Californians. Agricultural crops are the most visible and quantifiable targets, but decorative plants, landscaping, highway medians and other non-agricultural plantings are also at risk.

The Sharpshooter threatens native plants, shrubs and trees. The natural habitat of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter in the southeastern United States is forest margins. In coastal California and in the Sierra Nevada, riparian woodlands may prove to be suitable habitat for Sharpshooters. As a "generalist" feeder that has expanded its geographic range into new territory, local populations of the Sharpshooter can be expected to progressively adapt to local conditions and to new host plants.

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