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Glassy-Winged Sharpshooters Found in Stanislaus and El Dorado Counties

New GWSS finds in non-infested areas serve as a reminder of the Pierce's Disease Control Program's critical role in rapid detection and containment.



Adult glassy-winged sharpshooters, which can spread Pierce's disease to grapevines

EL DORADO COUNTY

Two adult GWSS were found in October 2024 in El Dorado Hills. Since then, visual surveying and trapping have found 15 more GWSS adults and two emerged egg masses on residential properties. Inspectors are determining the extent of the infestation and are creating a response plan with PDCP. To aid in eliminating the infestation, PDCP has released over 400 biocontrol agents at 14 sites in the area.

STANISLAUS COUNTY

One adult GWSS was found in August 2024 in Turlock. Visual surveying and trapping have since found 62 more GWSS adults, three nymphs, one viable egg mass, and 11 emerged egg masses in the area. The county continues to assess the full scope of the infestation.

The PDCP has initiated a Proclamation of an Emergency Program for this new infestation, with treatments planned through November 2026. The PDCP held a community meeting in October to discuss the response plan and will notify property residents before starting any

treatments. Biocontrol is also being used to eradicate this infestation and PDCP has released 1,890 biocontrol agents at nine sites in the area.

SOLANO COUNTY

Finds have decreased annually since GWSS was first detected in October 2021, but additional finds this summer underscore the need for continued work to eradicate the pest. The county will remain vigilant for additional GWSS finds with a higher level of trapping and plans to gradually scale back treatments over the next few years as detections allow.

Over the last three years, inspectors have found 148 adult GWSS and 618 egg scars/masses in the 3,500-acre quarantine area. Staff have inspected over 12,300 traps and 2,600 properties, conducted over 2,700 property treatments (soil injection or foliar spray), and released over 15,800 biocontrol wasps at 170 locations.

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PD/GWSS Referendum Grower Vote Set for Spring 2025

Grower Survey: How Can We Better Meet Your Needs?



We want to hear directly from winegrape growers about the impact of pests and diseases, so we can better meet your needs. Take the survey online at research.net/r/CAgrapegrowers or scan the QR code to share your perspectives by Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

For 25 years, the Pierce's Disease Control Program has helped protect vineyards through its statewide survey and detection programs, rapid response efforts, outreach and research on nine winegrape pests and diseases. The survey findings will provide a data-driven foundation for more informed decision-making and strategic planning for the PDCP and your grower-led PD/GWSS Board.

Can the Spotted Lanternfly Spread Pierce's Disease?

That's a question on the minds of many winegrape growers facing down the relentless march of the invasive spotted lanternfly (SLF) across the United States.

New research suggests that the SLF can spread Pierce's disease (PD), though to what degree is not yet known. Preliminary data showed SLF prefers to feed on healthy grapevines but can spread PD after feeding on PD-infected vines. Read more at bit.ly/4dxo2Rh.

The Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Board is investing in more research on this topic, with a project looking at the potential for SLF to spread grapevine red blotch disease and PD. The team is studying the combined effects of PD and SLF on grapevines under varying irrigation regimes and water stress conditions to offer growers better management recommendations.

SLF CONTINUES TO SPREAD

Infestations of SLF have now been confirmed in 17 states along the East Coast and into the Midwest and Southeast, with new infestations in Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Michigan and North Carolina. SLF has also been spotted in Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire. See where SLF is in the U.S. at bit.ly/SLF-map.

Infested areas have shifted from eradication to management to prevent further spread and mitigate damage. Researchers are working to find better ways to reduce or keep existing populations in check. Biological control would be ideal, but currently, pesticides and physical traps are the only proven management methods.

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA FROM SLF

California could be a prime environment for the destructive SLF, with the state's mild climate and the

pest's preference for the tree of heaven and grapevines. While the insects have been found dead during air cargo inspections and egg masses have been stopped at border stations, annual statewide surveys of high-risk areas haven't uncovered any SLF infestations in California.

The CDFA also protects the state from SLF with a statewide exterior quarantine, research and outreach. See what the pest looks like in its various life stages at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/slf>.

The Board is also preparing growers by investing in a research and outreach project on the potential impact of SLF and the effectiveness of control strategies. The team's findings highlight the economic risks of a SLF invasion and the importance of coordinated control efforts among growers to mitigate its impact. They are now working to share findings and recommendations with the industry to set the stage for immediate and impactful management actions should SLF arrive in California.

SPOT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?

Adult
Summer - Winter



CDFA Pest Hotline:
1-800-491-1899

Report online:
cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/

Learn more:
cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/slf



Snag it. Snap it. Report it.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

