

# **GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER STATEWIDE DETECTION & DELIMITATION PROTOCOLS February 2025<sup>1</sup>**

## **SURVEY AREA**

Counties within the potential range of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) are designated as infested, partially-infested, or apparently free of GWSS. Counties and areas of counties are considered apparently free from GWSS if no established population (5 or more adults within any five-day period and within a 300-yard radius, or the presence of multiple life stages) can be found by survey.

### **Infested Counties**

- Counties in which GWSS is generally distributed include Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties.
- GWSS survey activities in the infested counties are primarily associated with the certification of horticultural and agricultural commodities moving from an infested area into an uninfested area. Survey and monitoring guidelines for these commodities can be found in Nursery Shipping Protocols and compliance agreements.

### **Partially-infested Counties**

For partially infested counties that are working to suppress their GWSS population, this definition may vary depending on the proximity of new GWSS finds to the existing infested areas and the GWSS eradication or control/suppression activities that are occurring. GWSS finds within 5 miles of an existing infestation may be considered as an expansion of the existing infested area depending on the number of GWSS found.

- Limited infestations of GWSS occur in areas of El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Imperial, Madera, Santa Barbara, Solano, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties. Other areas of these counties have been surveyed and were found apparently free of GWSS populations.
- GWSS activities in the infested areas of partially-infested counties are primarily associated with the certification of horticultural and agricultural commodities moving from an infested area into an uninfested area. The guidelines for these commodities can be found in nursery and bulk citrus compliance agreements

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<sup>1</sup> Survey protocols in this document are intended to provide guidance on how to detect and delimit infestations of GWSS. Counties should consult with CDFA's Pierce's Disease Control Program (the Program) before deviating from these protocols.

## Counties Apparently Free of GWSS

- Counties in which GWSS is not known to occur include Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, , Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sonoma, , Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nine counties are deemed not at risk of becoming infested with GWSS due to unsuitable environments. They are the counties of Alpine, Del Norte, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, and Siskiyou.

## GWSS BIOLOGY

### Hosts

- GWSS feeds on and oviposits in a wide variety of plants. The plants listed on the host list are those plant species on which GWSS life forms have been recorded in either California or the southeastern United States. This list is a working document and will continue to expand as more information becomes available. The most updated host list can be found on the internet at:

<http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pqm/manual/pdf/454.pdf>

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- Citrus and crape myrtle are favored hosts in California, but very high sharpshooter populations have also been observed in several species of woody ornamentals. There are 364 genera that have been identified as hosts for the GWSS.

### Life Cycle/Seasonality

- GWSS has two or more generations per year in California. Although adults are present and must feed throughout the year, egg-laying activities are either absent or reduced to very low levels during the winter months of December and January. Egg laying resumes in late February and continues through May. The first generation completes development from late May to late August. Adults from this generation lay egg masses from mid-June through late September, which give rise to overwintering adults.

## DETECTION METHODS

### Traps

- Yellow panel traps have proven successful at detecting infestations of GWSS. Panels measuring a minimum of 5" x 9" are the trap of choice for GWSS. Proper deployment is essential for trap capture success.
- GWSS adults have also been recovered from other insect traps, i.e., Jackson traps, as well as yellow panel traps used for Asian citrus psyllid. Therefore, after removal from the field, all insect detection traps within the survey area should be routinely screened for GWSS. This includes all traps deployed for detection of exotic pests in urban and rural areas including the sticky inserts from Jackson traps, any yellow panel traps, gypsy moth, and Japanese beetle traps. We need to seek the cooperation of university extension and research personnel, private contractors and consultants (Pest Control Advisors), and growers who use similar traps for monitoring, controlling, or export certification in orchards, vineyards, and ornamental crops to be watchful for GWSS and notify the County Agricultural Commissioner should their trap capture GWSS.
- The flight temperature threshold for GWSS is approximately 65°F. Trapping will not be an effective survey method during periods when temperatures are lower than this threshold.

# PROTOCOLS FOR NON-INFESTED AND PARTIALLY INFESTED COUNTIES

## URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL DETECTION TRAPPING

### Yellow Panel Traps

- Trapping Season: Begins no earlier than June 1, unless approved by the Program. Counties may trap in any five-month period between June 1 and November 30.
- Trap Density:
  - Urban residential (501 or more residences per square mile)
    - 5 traps per square mile
  - Rural residential
    - 301-500 residences/sq. mi. = 4 traps/sq. mi.
    - 151-300 residences/sq. mi. = 3 traps/sq. mi.
    - 51-150 residences/sq. mi. = 2 traps/sq. mi.
    - 25- 50 residences/sq. mi. = 1 trap/sq. mi.
  - Rural areas with 25 or less homes per square mile should not be trapped unless they are at risk for colonization by GWSS.
  - The number of traps recommended above should be doubled in the area within ¼ mile of high-risk nurseries<sup>3</sup>.
- Hosts: Preferred hosts should always be selected for trap deployment. Preferred hosts include the following:
  - Spring: Crape myrtle, citrus, privet, photinia, prunus, grape, melaleuca, xylosma, oleander, olive, pittosporum, raphiolepis, rose, arbutus, and euonymus.
  - Summer: Crape myrtle, citrus, grape, privet, photinia, mulberry, xylosma, oleander, prunus, pear, peppertree, camellia, pittosporum, raphiolepis, rose, arbutus, olive, and euonymus.
  - Fall: Citrus, crape myrtle, oleander, olive, camellia, photinia, pittosporum, privet, prunus, raphiolepis, rose, arbutus, and xylosma.
  - Other locally favored hosts may be utilized for trap placement.
- Trapping Sites:
  - **Irrigated areas** with a diversity of plants which include multiple-preferred hosts should be selected whenever possible.
  - GWSS trapping may be conducted as a separate activity or may be incorporated into general detection trapping activities, whichever is most appropriate for local conditions. However, GWSS traps should not be

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<sup>3</sup> High-risk nurseries are those which receive plant material from GWSS-infested areas.

placed on the same host as medfly traps or other traps unless the same trapper is responsible for both trap lines. GWSS trappers should be trained to recognize exotic pests other than GWSS as these may also be captured on yellow panel traps. **Most importantly GWSS trappers should always place their traps in the preferred hosts mentioned above.**

- Trap Placement: GWSS are found primarily in the outer canopy of host trees. Traps deployed in individual trees should be positioned in a highly visible position (not hidden in the foliage) and placed in or near an area of vigorous, upright growth on the warmest part of the tree. The ideal height for the yellow **panel trap is eight to ten (8-10) feet. If practical, traps can be hung on a pole in the open near a preferred feeding host.**
- Trap Servicing Interval: Every two weeks if piggybacking traps, otherwise every three weeks. Traps should be marked with County trap number, placement date, service date if not replaced, and trapper initials. Service trap data is to be recorded within trapping records.
- Trap Relocation and Replacement: Yellow panel traps should be replaced and relocated every six weeks to another host at least 500 feet away. Excessively dirty traps should be replaced as needed. Consult with PDCP Program if Relocation is not feasible within the square mile.

## URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL DELIMITATION SURVEY

Any detection of GWSS in a non-infested county not associated with a recently-arrived nursery or landscaping shipment from an infested area shall trigger a delimitation response using the methods described below<sup>4</sup>. Partially infested Counties should consult with PDCP Program to discuss delimitation options.

### Yellow Panel Traps

- Yellow panel traps should be placed at a minimum density of 30 traps within the square mile centered around the initial find. Install and monitor traps radiating in appropriate distances from all live detections of GWSS.
- Any additional find locations shall be used as the epicenter to expand the delimitation trapping boundaries by one square mile.
- Overlapping delimitation areas will be trapped at densities commensurate with protocol levels.
- Servicing schedule:
  - First Week: Traps checked twice per week or more frequently in consultation with the Program.
  - Second Week: Traps checked twice per week.
  - Third and Fourth Weeks: Traps checked once per week.

If no additional GWSS are found, the trap density and servicing schedules will revert to detection protocols after 30 days.

### Visual Survey

- All (100%) properties within a ¼ mile radius of the initial find shall be surveyed. Initial surveys should be door-to-door, moving outward in all directions from the original find site. If the infestation is highly localized the search area may be restricted to the area circumscribed by the original ¼ mile radius.
- Additional find locations shall be used as the epicenter to expand survey boundaries using a ¼ mile radius. If high or scattered sharpshooter populations are found in the initial inspections it may be advisable to conduct a “transect” survey to rapidly determine the extent of the infestation. This involves inspecting a minimum of ten properties per lineal ¼ mile. Continue inspecting outward until no sharpshooters are found on two consecutive blocks. Use the last block with finds to define the area to be subjected to a property-by-property search.
- When running transect surveys special bias should be placed on properties with highly favored hosts present (i.e., crape myrtle, citrus, grape, privet, photinia,

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<sup>4</sup> Delimitation survey activities may vary in partially infested counties and should be done in consultation with the PDCP.

xylosma, oleander, mulberry, peppertree, ornamental plum, pear, euonymus, red bud, etc.).

- Records of inspected properties should be maintained in such a manner as to prevent revisiting previously inspected ones during the follow-up 100% survey.

## **Visual Searches**

- Adults, nymphs, nymphal cast skins, egg masses, and egg scars can be found by visually searching plants. Inspections for egg masses and nymphs are best restricted to known hosts. Old egg scars are the easiest to detect since egg deposition sites are visible on both leaf surfaces. This is not always the case with newly laid eggs, as the raised surface blister (and characteristic waxy covering) is typically visible on the undersides of the leaves. Consequently, a representative sample of leaves should be turned over and examined for egg masses. Backlighting against a sunny sky will also help in finding egg masses.
- When searching for active life stages on individual plants, certain behavioral characteristics of the sharpshooter can be used to increase the probability of detection. Important traits to consider are:
  - adults and older nymphs are primarily stem feeders
  - new flush growth is preferred
  - on trees, the insects usually select shoots that are growing upward (vertically oriented as opposed to horizontal twigs)
  - GWSS prefers southern exposures
- When populations are large and well established, adults are the easiest life stage to detect because they are highly visible when flying around or between their host plants. Flight activity is most pronounced during the warmer times of the day between the late morning and afternoon hours. During the cooler times of the day, nets and beat sheets may be used to agitate foliage causing adults to fall into the net or beat sheet.
- An efficient time period for looking at host plants is 10-15 minutes per urban property.

## **Nets and Beat Sheets**

- Visual searches of host plants can be enhanced by using insect nets (aerial and sweep) and beat sheets. The effectiveness of these devices is largely dependent on the type and density of GWSS life stages present. Either aerial or sweep nets can be used to capture adults, but aerial ones are often more effective since they are lighter, more maneuverable, have larger openings, and are often equipped with longer handles. Retrieval of specimens from aerial nets is also more efficient as captured individuals are always visible.
- Sweep nets are constructed of sturdy, durable materials and designed to quickly sample a wide variety of short (generally four feet or less in height) woody and



herbaceous plants, such as those found in nurseries. Sweep nets should always be used to augment visual examinations of plants since adults may be widely scattered and sitting on non-host plants. However, care must be exercised when using these nets so that plants are not injured. Sweeping is most likely to capture adults and/or nymphs when temperatures are below 65°F. As temperatures warm, adults are less likely to be caught by sweeping but this activity will cause adults to fly making them easier to see. Adults can also be stirred up by agitating foliage with net handles or lightly jarring foliage or plant containers. Adults are usually difficult to net in flight so they should be followed to their landing sites, dislodged into a net, and then collected in alcohol.

- Beat sheets are also an excellent tool because they are more effective than sweep nets for direct sampling of highly suspect plant parts such as erect flush growth, and they enable rapid discovery of nymphs and their cast skins. They also help facilitate the capture of nymphs because nymphs often will remain on the sheet long enough to allow collection; they don't fly away. Beat sheets are most effective early in the day when temperatures are low and the insects are less active.

## **Record Keeping**

- Develop detailed maps or block folders (property-by-property) of the surveyed area.
- Keep accurate records of properties surveyed and results of the survey (both positive and negative).
- Develop and maintain working host records during this intensive survey.

## NURSERIES

Nursery stock represents a significant pathway for the introduction of GWSS into new areas. All nurseries that receive plant shipments from GWSS infested areas should be considered at high risk.

### DETECTION SURVEY

#### Yellow Panel Traps

- Trapping Season: Begins no earlier than May 1, unless otherwise approved by the Program. Counties may trap in any six-month period between May 1 and November 30.
- Trap Density: Place 2 to 5 traps per acre depending on perceived risk.
- Hosts: Preferred hosts should be selected whenever possible.
- Selection of Trapping Sites: Place traps uniformly throughout the nursery and around holding areas designated for incoming shipments. Avoid trapping fence (property) lines when possible.
- Trap Placement: Position traps at canopy height, in a highly visible position (not hidden in the foliage) near vigorous, upright growth on the warmest side of the host. If plants are short, wooden stakes, poles, or rods can be used to secure the trap at or just above the canopy of nearby host plants (this is not to be confused with the trap height of 8-10 ft for urban/residential).
- Trap Servicing Interval: Inspect traps biweekly or in consultation with the Program.
- Trap Relocation: No relocation is necessary.
- Trap Replacement: Traps should be replaced every six weeks or sooner if needed.

## DELIMITATION SURVEY

The detection of a GWSS in a nursery not associated with an incoming nursery shipment shall trigger a delimitation survey as outlined below. All plants within the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius of the original detection site shall be inspected. This includes all plants within the nursery, and at or in any residences, croplands, or riparian habitats that fall within the designated delimitation boundaries.

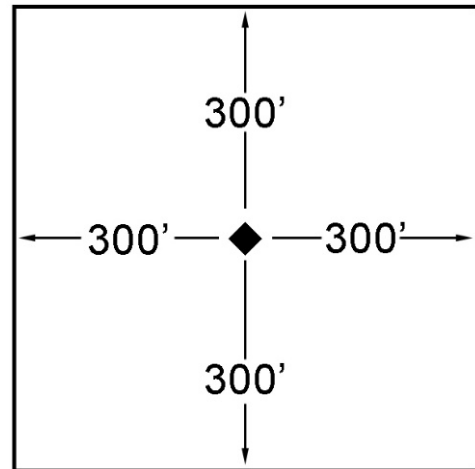
### Yellow Panel Traps

#### Retail Nursery Setting:

- Any find at a retail nursery located within an urban/residential area shall be trapped at a minimum density of 30 traps within the square mile centered on the initial find site.

#### Wholesale Nursery Setting:

- Yellow panel traps shall be placed at a density of 10 traps per acre. Delimitation area is defined as 300 feet in each direction (see figure) from the initial find site. This area is approximately 8.3 acres (total traps required = 83). If nursery is less than 8.3 acres, the surrounding properties may also be trapped if suitable hosts are present.



#### Retail and Wholesale Nursery Servicing Schedule:

- First Week: Traps checked twice per week or more frequently in consultation with the Program.
- Second Week: Traps checked twice per week.
- Third and Fourth Weeks: Traps checked once per week.

If no additional GWSS are found, the trap density and servicing schedules will revert to detection protocols after 30 days.

### Visual Survey

All plants within the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius of the original detection site shall be inspected. This includes all plants within the nursery, and at or in any residences, croplands, or riparian habitats that fall within the designated delimitation boundaries. Additional find locations shall be used as the epicenter to expand survey boundaries using a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius.

## **CROPLAND**

### **DETECTION TRAPPING**

Incorporation of cropland detection trapping shall be made after consultation with and approval by the Program.

- Croplands may be designated for trapping based on the degree of risk as assessed by the local agricultural commissioner.
- Survey guidelines for these “at risk” plantings shall be determined by local circumstances but should minimally include:
  - Visual survey of 10% of each planting.
  - Yellow panel trap monitoring at a density of one trap per 40 acres or less.

### **CROPLAND DELIMITATION SURVEY**

Any detection of GWSS in cropland shall be delimited as outlined in the Urban and Rural Residential Section (see page 7). This shall include all host crops as well as host materials found in rural/residential boundaries.

## **CITRUS PACKING HOUSES AND PROCESSING FACILITIES**

Yellow panel traps should be placed in and around citrus packing facilities throughout the harvest season, to serve as an early warning system to detect the presence of GWSS in incoming loads of citrus. A minimum of 3 traps per packing facility should be utilized. Traps should be located at receiving dock, packing line, and storage yards. Additional traps should be deployed if preferred host plants are on site of the receiving facility. Citrus loads originating from infested areas are a proven pathway for GWSS and need to be diligently safeguarded. All citrus coming from infested areas to non-infested areas or an area where an active control program is being conducted must be under compliance agreement and ship under a yellow tag.

## GWSS SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

All suspect GWSS specimens shall be submitted to the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center in Sacramento or submitted to the local county agricultural commissioner for submission to the Center for confirmation. This is particularly important for specimens that represent new distributional and host records and those which will be used as the basis for regulatory actions.

### Specimen Collection and Submission of Samples

- Leaves with suspect viable egg masses should be placed in sealed plastic bags. Alternatively, plastic vials can be used. It is important not to fold the leaves or roll them too much. Add a slightly moist piece of cotton to the bag or vial. Using a pin, make a few tiny holes on the bag, or plastic vial lid. Do not put egg masses in alcohol as it will compromise the viability determination. Keep specimens as cool as possible.
- Free-living adults and nymphs should be killed by placing them in vials containing 70% alcohol. These containers should have tight fitting corks or screw top lids to prevent the loss of specimens or preservative during transit to the laboratory.
- Suspect adults on yellow panel traps can be submitted by either sending the entire trap or by cutting out and sending the portion of the trap containing the suspect sharpshooter. Do not cover trap surfaces with clear plastic. Prior to shipment, yellow panel traps should be reversed so that the sticky surfaces are on the inside and a rubber band placed around the outside to hold the two halves in position. Care should be taken to insure that the sticky surfaces are not in contact. Yellow panel traps should be placed in sealed plastic bag(s) before packaging. "Cut-outs" should be placed in dry plastic vials and sized to fit tightly inside so that neither the specimen nor the "adhesive" comes in contact with the inner surface of the container.
- Use a Standard Form 65-020, "Pest and Damage Record" (PDR), when sending specimens for identification. The PDR must be electronically submitted and can be found at <http://phpps.cdfa.ca.gov/>. Once at this website, you will need to log-in in order to navigate to the Database tab, then select the Pest Damage Records link to get to the PDR main menu form. Egg masses for which viability status needs be determined should be requested in the comments section of the PDR and be shipped overnight. Avoid sending egg masses on a Friday, it is best to put them in the refrigerator and overnight the sample on Monday.

## **QUALITY CONTROL OF GWSS TRAPPING PROGRAM**

Maximizing the probability of GWSS detection using yellow panel traps requires that field personnel place and service traps properly, use preferred hosts (see page 5) and keep complete and accurate records. In addition, trappers must be able to recognize other significant exotic insect pests. To evaluate these program elements, the PDCP has instituted a quality control program which includes the field inspection and evaluation of detection sites/traps, the examination of trap records at field stations and the periodic “planting” of sharpshooter specimens. In addition, county trapping supervisors are also required to periodically perform quality control checks on trappers, throughout the trapping season.