

## Memorandum

To: William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary  
Executive Office, Suite 409

Date: April 27, 2000

Via: Tad Bell, Deputy Secretary  
Executive Office, Suite 409

Place: Sacramento

Phone: (916) 654-0317

From: **Department of Food and Agriculture**

Robert L. Wynn, Jr., Director  
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

Subject: CDFA Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force, Grape Movement Subcommittee  
Recommendations and Report

The following restrictions on the movement of bulk grapes due to glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) are recommended by this subcommittee as a result of their study of the potential pest risk of this activity. The subcommittee conducted a detailed evaluation of the best means to mitigate the potential GWSS pest risk while creating the least disruption in the practices of the grape juice, raisin, table grape, and wine grape industries.

Your approval of these restrictions for implementation in the near future will greatly enhance the ability of these industries to plan and prepare to fully comply with measures considered necessary to prevent the artificial spread of GWSS. The County Agricultural Commissioners in both infested and non-infested counties also need as much time as possible to implement the proposed recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDED RESTRICTIONS ON BULK GRAPES DUE TO GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER (GWSS)**

#### **Restrictions:**

- **General-**

Agricultural commissioners of counties that are apparently free of GWSS may establish restrictions on the movement of grapes into their counties from known GWSS-infested counties/areas. If restrictions are adopted, compliance with those restrictions would be monitored by the destination County Agricultural Commissioner and certificates and/or compliance agreements would be required for shipments. A compliance agreement with the origin county may be used as the basis for shipment or certification at the discretion of the destination county. The destination County Agricultural Commissioner may also establish destination restrictions on the grapes and enter into agreements to monitor and ensure compliance with those restrictions. The following are potential options for restrictions:

- **Crush in Infested Areas-**

Shipments of bulk grapes produced in GWSS infested areas may be moved within the known infested areas for crushing without restriction. The resultant juice, must, or wine may then be moved statewide without restriction.

- **Free-from Origin-**

Shipments of bulk grapes from infested counties may be moved from those counties if the shipments are certified as originating from areas that have been surveyed, found free from GWSS, and are monitored for GWSS prior to and during harvest.

- **Treatment-**

Shipments of bulk grapes from infested counties/areas may be moved from those counties/areas if the shipments are certified as having originated from vineyards which were treated prior to harvest with a material which is known to be effective against GWSS, is registered for use on grapes prior to harvest, and if all label requirements are met.

- **Risk Mitigation Protocol-**

Under compliance agreements at origin and destination, shipments of bulk grapes from infested counties/areas may be moved from the known infested counties/areas for crushing, if the grapes:

1. Are moved directly to the crushing location without undue delay or diversion immediately following harvest.
2. Are placed into the crusher as soon as possible after arrival.

Material other than grapes (trash) must be handled in a manner that eliminates any potential pest risk.

Destination trapping and inspection of loads by CDFA Wine Grape Inspection Program personnel should be conducted where feasible.

**Additional Recommendations:**

- The Department/County Agricultural Commissioners should develop and implement a grape grower, processor, and winery outreach program regarding restrictions and compliance.
- For the purpose of uniformity, the Department should establish and distribute a definition of an “infestation” for GWSS.

- The Department/County Agricultural Commissioners should develop and implement an appropriate notification system between origin and destination for the movement of bulk grapes.
- The Department should prepare and distribute a bulk grape restriction, responsibility, and movement flow chart.

**POTENTIAL PEST RISK OF MOVEMENT OF BULK GRAPES**  
**DUE TO GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER (GWSS)**

**Potential Pest Risk:**

- **Scientific Evidence-**  
No research has been conducted to provide evidence that GWSS will or will not be carried in shipments of harvested, bulk grapes. Highest priorities should be delimitation of infested areas and surveying/sampling of field loads of bulk grapes.\*
- **Scientific Opinion and Observations -**  
Mechanical harvesting, particularly at night with cool temperatures, may result in GWSS nymphs or adults falling off vines, into bins or onto conveyor belts, and being present in loads.  
Adult GWSS are not attracted to harvester lights.  
Hand harvesting, particularly during cooler periods, may result in GWSS dropping into picking buckets and ending up in loads.  
With warmer temperatures, the risk may be less as the GWSS may fly ahead of the pickers.  
Without clear evidence that grape loads don't harbor GWSS, loads from infested areas should be restricted.  
Hand harvested grapes may present a greater risk than mechanically harvested grapes.  
Table grapes packed for distribution are very unlikely to contain GWSS.  
Adult GWSS drop easily from their hosts when cool.  
Eggs may dehydrate and lose viability as the leaf loses turgidity.
- **Information Needed-**  
Are GWSS nymphs or adults present in loads of grapes?  
Are GWSS present in mechanically harvested loads?  
Are GWSS present in hand harvested loads?  
Are GWSS present in loads harvested at night? During the day?  
Are GWSS attracted to the lights used during night harvest?  
If present, are GWSS likely to escape from the loads en route?  
If present, are GWSS likely to escape from loads at destination?  
If present, are GWSS likely to reach a site suitable for survival and colonization?  
What are the diurnal/nocturnal flight patterns?

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Will egg masses survive handling procedures?\*

What is the temperature threshold for inactivity?

Does harvesting equipment present a pest risk?\*

\* CDFA and county scientists are being assigned to investigate and make findings regarding these significant issues.

• **Conclusions -**

Unless evidence exists to the contrary, bulk loads of grapes should be considered to present a small, but possible, risk of carrying live GWSS and should have restrictions to achieve pest risk mitigation commensurate with this level of risk.

Recommendations Approved:

*Original signed by:*

*May 2, 2000*

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Tad Bell, Deputy Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Original signed by:*

*May 2, 2000*

\_\_\_\_\_  
William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr., Secretary

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Date