

Rapid Response

When a glassy-winged sharpshooter infestation is discovered in a previously uninfested area of the county, the local agricultural commissioner is the lead agency and proceeds according to established protocols. The county agricultural commissioner initiates a delimitation survey to determine the extent of the infestation.

Once the extent of the infestation is determined, the county will take action on the basis of its approved workplan. If the sharpshooter is discovered in an agricultural setting, the pest may be treated at the cost of the property owner in a manner approved and supervised by the agricultural commissioner. If the infestation is detected in an urban or residential area, it may be eradicated where feasible. If eradication is not feasible, the infestation will be contained within the smallest possible area, as determined by the commissioner.

Treatment Preparation

If the county elects to execute a plan of treatment, advance approval is generally obtained from the county governing body or an authorized representative (e.g., board of supervisors, county counsel) and must also be obtained from the CDFA.

Before treatments begin, the county agricultural commissioner consults a California database of endangered and threatened species maintained by the Department

of Pesticide Regulation. If a species was identified in the treatment area, the commissioner would contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services or the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to identify appropriate mitigation for threatened or endangered species and environmentally sensitive areas within proposed treatment areas. In addition, notification is provided to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, which monitors treatment activities, and the California Department of Health Services, which responds to illness reports.

All treatments are preceded by a public meeting to provide community members the opportunity to discuss the treatment process with environmental health and program specialists. Door-to-door contacts, direct mail and local media sources are used to solicit resident participation in public meetings. Occupants of all properties as well as adjacent properties scheduled for treatment are provided individual, advanced notification including the proposed pesticide label (ingredients) and a "help line" phone number.

Pesticide Use & Monitoring

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is the lead agency for approving the use of pesticides in California. The main consideration for selection of a pesticide to use against the glassy-winged sharpshooter is

whether the product is effective against the pest and whether it is labeled for use on the host plants found in the infested area. Impacts on public health and the environment are considered when any product is registered in the state, but making sure any impacts can be kept to a minimum is also a consideration that is paramount in a treatment program.

The insecticide carbaryl has been used in the five new infestations detected in the first year of the program. This material is labeled for use in residential settings on a broad variety of ornamental plants and fruit trees. The CDFA also had previous experience with the material and had done a full environmental review on similar uses, showing that any risks from the product could be mitigated. (*Final Environmental Impact Report: Gypsy Moth, CDFA. 1992*).

New research has shown that imidacloprid is also very effective against the sharpshooter. It has had some limited use in treatment programs on ornamental plantings in commercial areas.

The Environmental Hazards Program of the Department of Pesticide Regulation assesses environmental impacts of the program by monitoring treatments to determine chemical concentrations in the air, surface water, leaves and representative backyard fruits and vegetables. This information is also used by the CDFA to assess proper application rate and coverage.

Over 2,000 properties infested with the sharpshooter in five counties were treated this year. Glassy-

winged sharpshooter populations appear to have been markedly reduced on treated properties. Further evaluation will continue in the spring of 2001. Maps of treatment areas are contained in the appendix.

Sampling results and related glassy-winged sharpshooter monitoring reports are available at DPR's website (www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/gwss).

Strategic Alliances

The CDFA has enlisted the cooperation of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to assist in the fight against Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

Employees for the CCC have been essential to the program, rushing into action in several communities where new infestations have been found. The flexible staff of the CCC allows local officials and the CDFA coordinators to quickly assess the extent of sharpshooter infestation. The CCC staff has also assisted in preparation for treatment activities.

The miles of oleander and other plants lining the medians and shoulders of California's highways are ready hosts to the sharpshooter. Caltrans employees have been trained to identify the sharpshooter and can quickly respond to new infestations when discovered.