

Conclusion

This has been a significant year in the fight against Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter, one in which statewide agricultural organizations and other stakeholders united for a common purpose. Several strains of the bacteria that cause Pierce's disease exist and can attack and cause damage to a number of different plants. Consequently, a number of agricultural organizations have a vested interest in the program's success. As the Pierce's Disease Control Program originated and the fight itself continued to gain momentum, stakeholders asked for more input on policy and decision-making activities. The CDFA listened and used the feedback in its leadership of key initiatives. In the coming year, the CDFA hopes to build on the spirit of communication and interaction to bring the State of California closer to an integrated solution for Pierce's disease and its vectors.

Although the accomplishments have been significant, there are many challenges ahead that must be overcome. The first challenge is the unknown extent of the glassy-winged sharpshooter's presence in California. While an initial statewide survey was conducted early in the year, comprehensive surveys remain to be completed. Urban area infestations are very much a threat and a comprehensive statewide survey is necessary to more accurately assess the sharpshooter population and risk.

Emerging changes in the discovery of the glassy-winged sharpshooter led the CDFA to implement several new initiatives, including the creation of nursery, bulk grape and citrus regulations requiring industry to ensure that shipments are sharpshooter-free. While the introduction of these new regulations impacts business operations, cooperation has been commendable. Very few nursery shipments are infested with the sharpshooter and nurseries are working hard to prevent the spread. This is verified by the fact that less than 1% of over 52,000 shipments this year uncovered the sharpshooter.

The accomplishments in research have been very encouraging. Research priorities have been identified, the experts to perform the projects have been identified and \$7.7 million in funding has been committed. In less than six months, demonstration projects have already developed tools for industry to use in their management practices and have established a foundation for significant future accomplishments.

The ongoing development of the biological control element is critical to the success of an integrated pest management approach. Identification and release of natural enemies of the sharpshooter will help to minimize pesticide treatments. Although the limited pesticide treatments applied this year appear effective, their impact won't be fully known until next spring

when the sharpshooter populations typically increase.

A key challenge is the availability of resources. State and local government resources are being stretched and are in growing demand. The federal government recognized the importance of a solution by committing \$22 million to the effort but has not provided any indication of future support. Continued support will be necessary to ensure that sufficient resources are available to impact Pierce's disease and its vectors.

In 2000, the program emphasis has been on the urgent need to prevent artificial movement of the glassy-winged sharpshooter and to delimit the areas infested with this

pest. In 2001, program activities will be expanded to include additional elements to combat Pierce's disease, such as survey and identification methodology and training.

The CDFA will continue to focus on the ongoing development of the biological control element, a continued emphasis on statewide surveys and enhance our research efforts. To reach our objectives, we will continue to rely on the dedication and initiative of county agricultural commissioners and the many stakeholders. The CDFA is confident that stakeholder cooperation will lead us closer to a long-term solution for Pierce's disease.