



NAPA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

DAVID R. WHITMER
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
GREGORY R. CLARK
Assistant Ag Commissioner/Sealer

1710 SOSCOL AVENUE, SUITE 3 • NAPA, CA 94559-1315
TELEPHONE: 707-253-4357 • TOLL FREE: 1-877-279-2980
FAX: 707-253-4881
WEBSITE: <http://www.co.napa.ca.us/internet/content/departments/agcom/agcom.asp>

February 15, 2005

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Action Team members:

Yesterday morning (February 14, 2005), Agricultural Standards and Service Worker Gene Rose found a viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) egg mass on one of 15 one-gallon size Green Pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*) that were part of a shipment of landscape plants from a large wholesale nursery. The plants were intended for retail sale. The find was the second viable egg mass to be found in Napa County in the last week. It was also from the same southern California wholesale nursery that shipped the Sweet Pea Shrubs found to be harboring a GWSS egg mass last week by Napa inspectors.

The egg mass was taken to the CDFG entomology laboratory in Sacramento the afternoon of February 14 for official identification and determination of viability. A short while later that day, the lab determined that the egg mass was indeed GWSS and was viable when found.

Documentation for the shipment showed that the plants were from the wholesale nursery's Ventura County growing ground and that they had been treated with the insecticide Tame®, one of two pesticides found to control GWSS egg masses at greater than 95% effectiveness.

Upon notification of rejection, the origin nursery decided they would not be picking up the plants to take back to the nursery in southern California. Napa County, in cooperation with the retail outlet to which the plants were shipped, destroyed the 15 one-gallon sized shrubs that same afternoon.

A Notice of Rejection was issued by the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office to the shipping nursery, officially documenting that the shipment was in violation of quarantine regulations. In addition, Dave Whitmer contacted the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner Earl McPhail to investigate the problem with the origin nursery's inspection procedures that led to two infested shipments within one week's time. McPhail promised to work more closely with the nursery to find solutions.

Whitmer also communicated his concerns to CDFG officials in charge of inspection programs statewide, and asked their help in strengthening safeguards.