

*******NEWS RELEASE*******

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Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Egg Masses Found

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's staff has found two more viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) egg masses on incoming plant shipments in Santa Rosa and Petaluma for a total of four egg mass discoveries in 2005. The egg masses were taken to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) entomology laboratory, where they were confirmed as viable GWSS egg masses.

During daily routine inspections of incoming plant shipments to Sonoma County, one egg mass was found on March 17, 2005, in Santa Rosa. A second egg mass was discovered on March 18, 2005, in Petaluma. Both of these plant shipments came from Ventura County. Subsequently, all the plants involved in these shipments were re-loaded on trucks and returned to the shipping nursery.

In addition, Sonoma County staff is working in cooperation with CDFA and the originating County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, in these cases Ventura County, in the effort to reduce the likelihood of plants being shipped with egg masses.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's staff remains committed to preventing the introduction of this pest into Sonoma County. Local plant receivers and nurseries remain especially cooperative in this preventative effort.

Notification to the Agricultural Commissioner's staff of arriving plant shipments from GWSS infested nurseries are done so agricultural inspectors can inspect the plants to assure they are free from any life stages of the pest. Spring is the busiest time for receiving plant shipments in Sonoma County and as a result additional staff has been hired to meet the inspection needs of the county. So far in 2005, about 650 plant shipments have been inspected within Sonoma County,

which is typical when compared to past years. Sonoma County has the dedicated staff to thank for their diligent efforts in keeping the county free of GWSS. Other efforts in this goal include placing and inspecting traps as well as surveying urban landscape areas, vineyards, and nurseries.

The public can assist by keeping an eye out for the GWSS and contacting the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 131 Aviation Boulevard Suite 110, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707 565-2371) or contact Bug Spot at 1-866-BUGSPOT or www.bugspot.org, who provide educational posters and handouts.

For more information regarding GWSS go to the CDFA's website - <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/index.htm>