

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

March 12, 2007

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Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Egg Mass Found

Agricultural inspectors from the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office found one viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter egg mass on March 8, 2007, on an incoming plant shipment. The egg mass was found during a routine inspection of a nursery shipment from Orange County.

The egg mass was sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture entomology laboratory where it was identified on March 9 as a viable Glassy-winged Sharpshooter egg mass. The egg mass was found on the leaf of a Carolina Jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), which is a common landscape plant. In this case, the eight plants were returned to the origin shipper that same day. The remaining plants were released after a thorough inspection was conducted.

The busy season for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program has begun in earnest over the past couple of weeks with the warmer and dryer weather. During the past five years we have inspected an average of 1,726 regulated plant shipments for the months of March through June. Shipments range in size from a few plants to thousands of plants.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office remains committed to preventing the introduction of this serious pest into Sonoma County. Local nurseries remain very cooperative in this effort as well. We receive numerous calls every week from dozens of nurseries throughout the county who have received plant material from Glassy-winged Sharpshooter infested areas. Their support and cooperation has been critical to the ongoing success of our program.

The local wine grape industry continues to fund educational posters, videos, and handouts, the website - www.bugspot.org, and the toll free number 1-866-BUGSPOT.