

RIVERSIDE COUNTY GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER AREA-WIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN THE COACHELLA AND TEMECULA VALLEYS

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ABSTRACT

Riverside County has two general areas where citrus groves interface with vineyards, the Coachella and Temecula Valleys. The Coachella Valley with 10,438 acres of table grapes in proximity to 12,000 acres of citrus and the Temecula Valley with 2,000 acres of wine grapes in proximity to 1,000 acres of citrus are vulnerable to Pierce's disease (PD), caused by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. The grapes in the Coachella and Temecula areas of Riverside County are in jeopardy because of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), the vector of the PD bacterium, build up in adjacent citrus groves. Citrus is an important year around reproductive host of GWSS in Riverside County, but also one that concentrates GWSS populations over the winter months during the time that grapes and many ornamental hosts are dormant. GWSS weekly monitoring in citrus in grapes began in March 2000 in Temecula Valley and 2003 in Coachella Valley by trapping and visual inspections. Temecula valley GWSS populations in 2008 reached levels not seen prior to the initiation of the area wide GWSS program in 2000. Coachella Valley GWSS populations have decreased dramatically since the treatment program was initiated in 2003.

INTRODUCTION

The glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) vectors the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease (PD). This insect and bacterium are a severe threat to California's 890,000 acres of vineyards and \$61 billion dollar industry. An area-wide GWSS management program was initiated in Temecula in 2000 to prevent this vector's spread into other California grape growing regions. In Temecula valley itself, the wine grape industry and its connecting tourist industry generate \$100 million of revenue for the economy of the area. GWSS/PD caused a 40% vineyard loss and almost destroyed the connecting tourist industry. The area wide GWSS management program initiated in the spring of 2000 saved the industry from a 100% loss. Only a continuation of an area-wide GWSS management program will keep the vineyards viable in Temecula. The table grape industry in the Coachella Valley is represented by 7,797 acres of producing vines, which generate fresh market grapes valued at an average of \$117 plus million annually (Coachella Valley Acreage and Agricultural Report 2009). The GWSS was identified in the Coachella Valley in the early 1990's. Population increases of this insect in Coachella Valley in the last three years have increased the danger of PD occurrence in this area, as has occurred in similar situations in the Temecula and San Joaquin Valleys. In July 2002, the occurrence of *Xylella. fastidiosa*, the PD bacterium, was found in 13 vines from two adjacent vineyards in the southeastern part of Coachella Valley. With this discovery, and the increasing GWSS populations, there was and is a real need to continue an area-wide GWSS/PD management program. The GWSS area wide management program is needed to prevent an economic disaster to the work forces and connecting small businesses of Mecca, Thermal, Coachella, Indio, etc. that depend upon the vineyards for a big portion of their incomes. Only a continuation of an area wide GWSS/PD management program will keep the vineyards viable in Coachella. At present there are no apparent biological or climatological factors that will limit the spread of GWSS or PD. GWSS has the potential to develop high population densities in citrus. Insecticide treatments in citrus groves preceded and followed by trapping and visual inspections to determine the effectiveness of these treatments are needed to manage this devastating insect vector and bacterium. Approximately 1,600 acres of citrus in Riverside County were treated for the GWSS in April through September, 2010 between a cooperative agreement with USDA-APHIS and the Riverside Agricultural Commissioner's Office under the "Area-Wide Management of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter in the Coachella and Temecula Valleys."

OBJECTIVES

1. Delineate the areas to be targeted for follow-up treatments to suppress GWSS populations in the Temecula and Coachella Valleys for 2010 and 2011.
2. Determine the impact of the GWSS area-wide treatments to suppress GWSS populations in citrus groves and adjacent vineyards.

METHODS, RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The programs in Coachella and Temecula were dependent upon grower, pest management consultants, citrus and vineyard manager's participation. The areas encompass approximately 28,000 acres. Representatives of various agencies were involved in the program, they were as follows: USDA-ARS, USDA-APHIS, CDFA, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, UC-Riverside, UC Cooperative Extension, and grower consultants. Representatives of these agencies meet to review the program. Newsletters are sent to growers, managers, wineries, and agencies with information on GWSS

populations and insecticide treatments via e-mail. The information from Temecula is sent weekly, while information from Coachella goes to the various parties monthly.

The GWSS/PD citrus groves and vineyards within the Temecula GWSS/PD management areas were monitored weekly to determine the need and effect of insecticide treatments on GWSS populations. In August, 2008, because of the lack of GWSS trap catches in Coachella valley, a bi-weekly schedule was initiated. Yellow sticky traps (7 x 9 inches) were used help determine GWSS population densities and dispersal/movement within groves and into vineyards (**Figures 1 and 2**). Approximately 1,400 GWSS yellow sticky traps are monitored in the Riverside county area wide program. Based on trap counts and visual inspection, approximately 1,000 acres of citrus were treated in Temecula valley for GWSS in 2010. In 2010, a total of 596 acres of citrus were treated to manage GWSS in Coachella valley. Three hundred acres of citrus of the citrus were treated with Admire Pro (imidacloprid) and 296 acres were treated with Nuprid (imidacloprid) in Coachella Valley for GWSS area wide management. Admire Pro and Nuprid were both applied at the rate of 14 oz/acre. Because of high Temecula GWSS trap catches in the late summer and early autumn of 2008 and 2009, imidacloprid (Admire Pro) applications in citrus were initiated in April, 2010 (**Figure 3**). Admire Pro was applied at the rate of 14 oz/acre. Of the 1,000 acres of treated citrus, 46 acres of organically farmed citrus were treated with PyGanic (1.4% Pyrethrins) at 18 oz/acre. Because of the low residual of the organic insecticides the organic citrus was treated three times during the season. PyGanic treatments were applied to the 46 citrus acres in early June, late July and September.

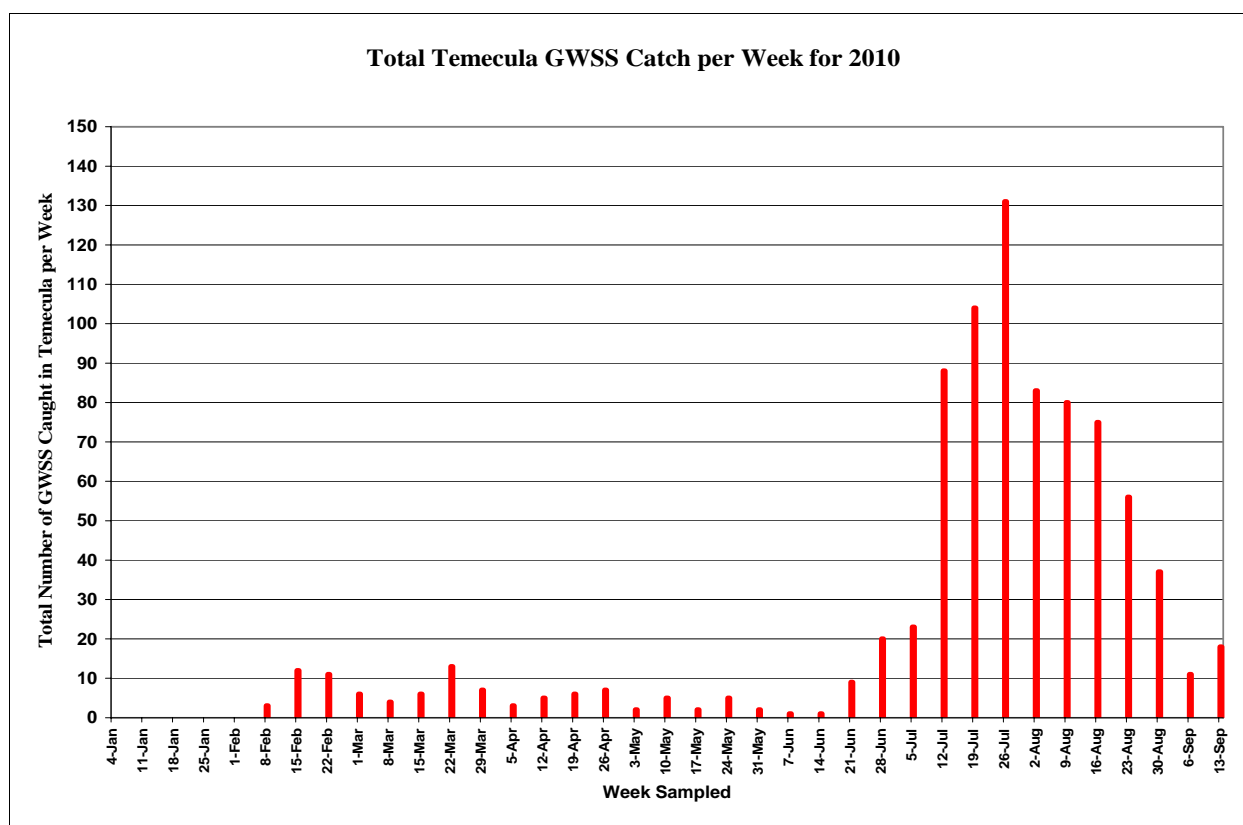


Figure 1. In 2010, the highest numbers of adult GWSS were trapped in July, reaching a total of 131.

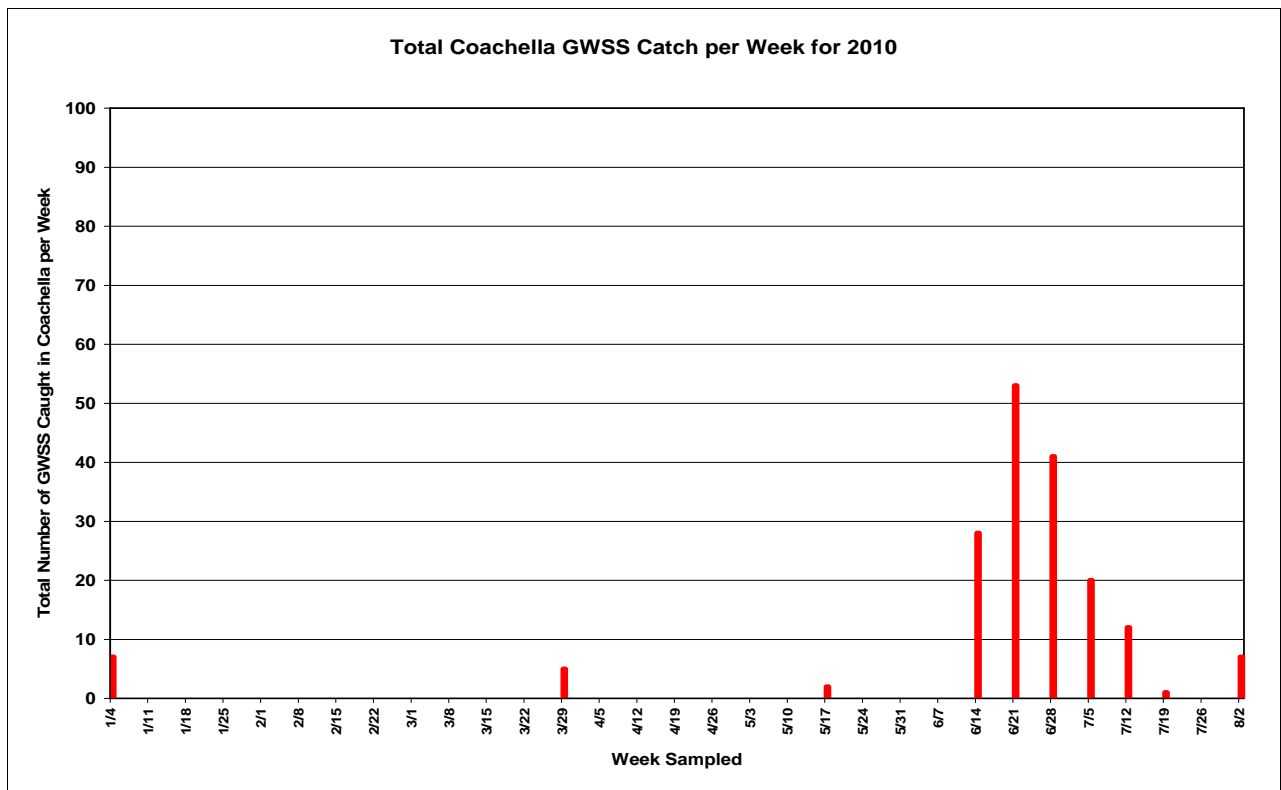


Figure 2. GWSS populations in Coachella Valley peaked in June with a high of 53 trapped

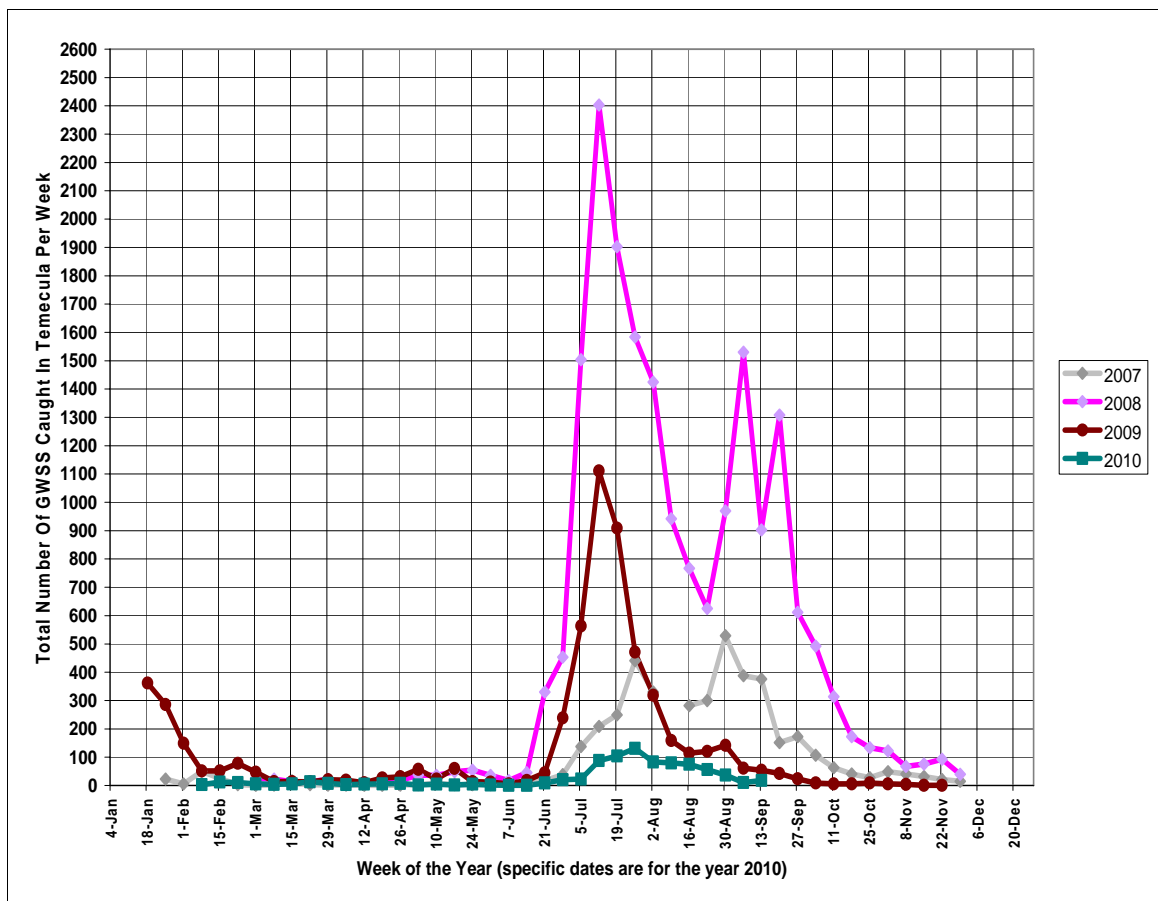


Figure 3. Temecula GWSS population comparisons from 2007-10.

For a successful area-wide GWSS management program with large acreages of citrus, a management program has to be maintained. Organic insecticides are not as effective as the neonicotinoid insecticides such as imidacloprid for controlling GWSS. Therefore, organic insecticides will have to be applied more frequently than its synthetic counterpart. In our Riverside County GWSS area wide program organic citrus groves pose challenges to area-wide GWSS management programs.

For more information on the management of GWSS visit the web site <http://ucbugdr.ucr.edu>.

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