



California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

Issue Fact Sheet

Issue: Pierce's Disease Control Program

Background: The glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) and the disease it vectors, Pierce's Disease (PD), threaten California wine grapes and many other commodities. This deadly combination has the potential to devastate regional economies and could have a serious impact on the entire California economy. The multi-year fight against this threat has been successful in controlling the spread of GWSS, while research efforts are closing in on a cure for PD. Only a rigorous federal-state-local containment strategy, which has been underfunded for several years, has kept the devastating impacts from becoming a reality. In Fiscal Year 2010, the USDA received \$22,983,000 for Pierce's Disease.

The Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP) provides vital protection to California's 789,000 acres of vineyards from the fatal, incurable disease of grapevines known as Pierce's Disease. Adequate resources are required to keep GWSS populations from spreading beyond current infestation boundaries. Inadequate funding undermines the tremendous past successes in containing GWSS and will impede the progress that has been made to find a long-term economical management strategy for Pierce's Disease.

Status: Program successes include:

- **Protection** -- California's grape and wine industry continue to be major sectors in the state and national economy, contributing an estimated annual state economic benefit of \$62 billion and national economic benefit of \$122 billion as well as providing 330,000 jobs within California and 820,000 jobs nationwide.
- **Regulatory** -- Development and implementation of effective protocols have mitigated the pest risk which otherwise would exist from shipments of nursery stock and citrus moving from GWSS-infested areas to non-infested areas of the state. The most significant GWSS regulatory program, the nursery program, has been tremendously effective but at significant cost to the nursery industry.
- **Detection** -- Continuous statewide monitoring efforts have quickly found small satellite infestations of GWSS, improving the chances for containment and eradication.
- **Rapid Response** -- Quick action against small infestations of GWSS has prevented further spread to larger areas and achieved complete eradication of 15 isolated infestations.
- **Area-wide Projects** -- Coordinated monitoring and treatment programs in large, diverse agricultural areas have proven successful at preventing widespread damage by PD/GWSS. Also, these programs are critical at keeping GWSS from spreading

naturally and artificially in bulk citrus loads and also beyond the existing infestation boundaries in areas with active GWSS populations.

- Biological Control – Approximately 3 million tiny parasitic wasps have been reared and released against the GWSS as part of a statewide integrated pest management approach to dealing with this pest. Several new species have successfully established themselves in California to help mitigate GWSS pest pressure.
- Research -- An extensive research effort involving scientists across the nation has generated sizable amounts of new information, leading us closer to finding sustainable solutions to PD/GWSS. Some research has led to field trials which are currently underway.
- Coordination -- Productive partnerships among all stakeholders (affected industries and local, state and federal government agencies) have been forged, leading to unified action and sharing of resources and expertise.
- Leveraged Resources – Local and statewide assessments have generated well over \$30 million to help with research costs and GWSS prevention programs. The California wine grape industry continues to demonstrate their support for and the importance of the PD/GWSS program by their willingness to help pay for the program.

Action Item: We ask that you strongly and actively support appropriations to continuously combat the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease.

Inadequate funding undermines our past successes in the Pierce's Disease program. To capitalize on our successes and complete the job, California requests the full appropriation of \$30 million per year.

To find a long-term solution, we also advocate funding research at \$6 million within USDA-ARS and \$2.1 million at USDA-CSREES.