



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# Safeguarding the California Winegrape Industry Against Spotted Lanternfly

The Pierce's Disease and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) Board officially added the spotted lanternfly (SLF) to its list of designated pests and diseases, making it eligible for research and outreach funding. As the industry learned from previous pest outbreaks, including GWSS and European grapevine moth, public outreach will play a critical role in preventing the pest from becoming a problem in California.



An adult spotted lanternfly. Photo credit: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

“While the SLF hasn’t been found in California yet, quick action is essential for addressing emerging threats,” said Roger Spencer, Pierce’s Disease Control Program statewide coordinator. “This proactive move by the PD/GWSS Board gives the California winegrape industry the ability to respond rapidly, without the need for additional legislation or other delays.”

The SLF, native to Asia, was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014, and now 14 counties in the state are infested and under quarantine. Parts of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia are also under quarantine, and SLF has been detected in New York, Connecticut, and

Massachusetts. The pest is primarily known to feed on the tree-of-heaven but has a wide host range, including grapes. It is considered a high-risk pest due to its mobility, with eggs and adults easily transported long distances by normal trade and transportation activities, making it a concern for grape growers nationwide.

“The best quarantine efforts happen at the points of origin. By showing that this is a pest we don’t want in California, we have a better chance of getting cooperation and action to control its spread,” said Spencer.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been informing and training county ag personnel involved with GWSS monitoring in California, as well as personnel at CDFA border inspection stations and ports of entry, to identify SLF. CDFA personnel attended an SLF symposium held in Pennsylvania in early March. In 2019, the CDFA, separately from the PD/GWSS Board, provided research funding through the Proactive Integrated Pest Management Solutions grant program for University of California entomologists Dr. Kent Daane and Dr. Mark Hoddle to investigate SLF biocontrol options.

Learn more from the United States Department of Agriculture at <https://bit.ly/2I4xdH7>.

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Responsive Area-Wide Treatments Keep GWSS at Bay



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On the Research Front

- Geographic Distribution of Isolate Virulence in *Xylella fastidiosa* (Xf) Collected from Grape in California and its Effect on Host Resistance
- A Study on the Impact of Individual and Mixed Leafroll Infections on the Metabolism of Ripening Winegrape Berries
- Effect of Grapevine Red Blotch Disease on Flavor and Flavor Precursor Formation in the Grape and on Wine Quality



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PD/GWSS Referendum Vote Underway

New PD/GWSS Board Officers and Members

