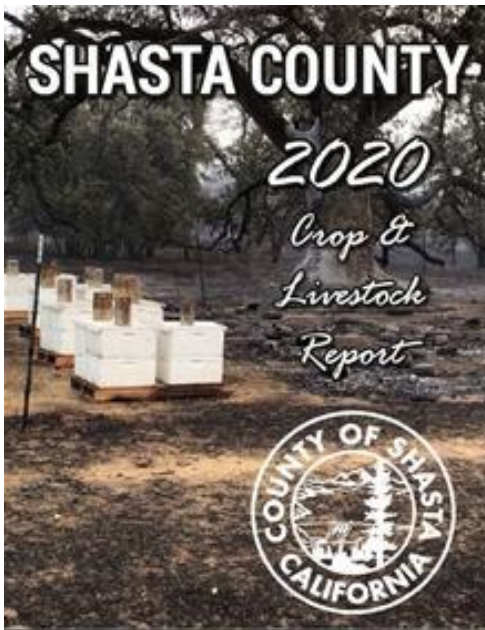




# SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## 2020 Crop Report for Shasta County Now Available



The 2020 Shasta County Crop Report is now available online for the public to view. This annual report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of agricultural commodities and livestock produced in Shasta County. All figures in the report represent gross returns only and do not reflect the net income of producers.

The total gross value of Shasta County's agricultural production in 2020 was \$77,477,000 which represents a 2.6% decrease from the previous reporting year. The value of hay production in Shasta County increased 48.3% from the previous year due to an increase in value and yield. Apiary products increased in value 5.2% over the previous year. Cattle, which represents the second largest commodity in 2020, decreased in value 22.1% due to significant price decreases. Nursery stock, which is largely represented in Shasta County as field grown nursery stock, saw an overall decrease in value of 21.3%.

Each year, every county agricultural commissioner in California is required to prepare a report of the condition, acreage, production, and value of the agricultural products in their county. The crop report is used for several purposes including, but not limited to, justifying water and irrigation needs, transportation and marketing facilities, disaster declarations, and to study labor requirements of an area. Economic studies of Shasta County typically include data from the Annual Crop & Livestock Report.

The Shasta County Department of Agriculture / Weights and Measures wishes to thank the producers, agricultural business representatives, and public agencies that assisted in providing the data necessary to produce this report.

The 2020 Crop Report, along with prior year's crop reports, can be viewed online by visiting the SCDA website at <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/ag-wm/ag-programs/crop-statistics>

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# PEST ALERT



## Keep Spotted Lanternfly Out of California

LIFE STAGES OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (*Lycorma delicatula*)



**Egg Mass**  
September - June



**Early Nymph**  
April - July



**Late Nymph**  
July - September



**Adult**  
July - December

### PROTECT CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is a threat to many important commercial crops and affects our enjoyment of the outdoors. The pest feeds on a wide range of plants and trees, with damage seen in vineyards, nurseries, and urban and rural environments.

Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive planthopper spreading in the U.S. since it was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. The pest feeds on over 100 different plant species, favoring tree of heaven and grape where it causes serious damage such as oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling, dieback, and plant death. It also excretes lots of honeydew when it feeds, encouraging the growth of black sooty mold.



Actual Size 1 inch

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Spotted Lanternfly is very distinct looking both as a nymph and an adult. But the egg masses can be hard to spot making it easy to transport them on vehicles and other outdoor items.

- Inspect trees and plants for signs of the pest, especially tree of heaven.
- Look for egg masses on outdoor items including vehicles, trailers, stone, and other smooth surfaces.
- Report suspected finds.

Emilie Swackhamer, Penn State University; Richard Gardner; Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

**SPOT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?**  
**CDFA Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899**  
**Report online: [reportapest.cdfa.ca.gov](http://reportapest.cdfa.ca.gov)**  
**Learn more: [cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/board/spottedlanternfly.html](http://cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/board/spottedlanternfly.html)**

Snag it. Snap it. Report it.



## Soil Treatments for Field Grown Nursery Stock in Shasta County

Agriculture relies on a proper balance of pests and their natural predators, in conjunction with modern and traditional farming practices, to feed the world's growing population. Organisms endemic to one area are generally held in balance by natural predators, resource availability, and the abiotic conditions under which they have developed. When certain organisms are moved on plant material or soils from their natural habitat to new areas, they have the potential to establish as serious pests, particularly when effective predators are scarce, resources are abundant, or competition is limited. For this reason, many states and countries establish quarantine requirements to regulate the movement of plant material from one area to another. While many people may be familiar with the restrictions on bringing plant material into California (such as declaring plant material when crossing the border into California), it is important to understand that many restrictions are also in place for plant material exported out of California. California nursery stock is often exported outside of the state or country for agricultural purposes, and as such, must meet the requirement of plant cleanliness for the receiving jurisdiction.

Shasta county is home to several nurseries and growers who produce young plants to be used in production fields throughout the world. These field grown starter plants are packaged and shipped to other states or out of the country where they are planted and commonly grown for actual crop production. A common pest requiring additional treatment and certification before plants are moved out of county are soil borne, plant parasitic nematodes.



*Pre-plant soil treatments involve specialized equipment which injects the pesticide directly into the soil. The area is immediately tarped and sealed for specified period of time to ensure maximum effectiveness of the treatment.*

While many species of nematodes play an important role in the ecosystem, a portion of these species can be significant agricultural pests that damage roots, impair plant growth, and lower crop yields. In order to be exported to other countries, these plants must meet the import requirements of the country to which they are being shipped. In many cases, this means the soil must be treated for nematodes prior to planting. To meet this requirement, the production nursery will often hire a licensed pesticide applicator to bring in the proper equipment and trained personnel to treat the soil. This ensures that plants shipped outside of California do not harbor potentially detrimental soil borne pests.

These preplant soil treatments are performed by third-party applicators who specialize in soil fumigation. Trained applicators and specialized equipment are brought in to apply the pesticide at a specified depth within the soil. The soil is then

immediately sealed, either by compaction or by tarping, to ensure the pesticide can permeate the soil strata for the required amount of time.

Pesticide use in California is heavily regulated in the agriculture industry. In order for production nurseries to utilize a pre-plant soil fumigation, specific requirements must be met and followed. The nursery must show a need for the treatment – either as a requirement for export or the need to control an existing pest population.

Detailed work plans, which cover the application, worker and public safety, and all mitigation measures, must be in place and approved by the Agricultural Commissioner in advance of the application. Buffer zones are established to keep unauthorized and untrained individuals out of the treatment area. The Agricultural Commissioner is notified with all relevant details at the least 48 hours prior to the start of the application, and staff from the Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) conduct pre-application inspections to ensure specific safety and mitigation measures are in place prior to the application commencing. Inspections of the application process are conducted to ensure safe practices are followed and all requirements of the product label, restricted materials permit, and work plan are followed. Conditions that may cause a hazard to worker safety or the environment, or deviations from the label, permit, work plan, or statutory requirement could result in an immediate cessation of the application.

Worker safety and public safety are of utmost importance with any pesticide application, and the SCDA works diligently to ensure that these applications are performed in a safe and effective manner. Pesticide applications can be an incredibly safe means of controlling pests, provided that all required safety measures are in place and followed correctly. Phytosanitary certificates are issued for the export of this nursery stock based on these treatments, which allows the bounties of Shasta County's agricultural sector to be shared throughout the world.

## California's 2022 Water Year

California's 2022 water year began October 1<sup>st</sup> by showing signs of a slight reprieve from our current drought conditions. A "water year" is considered the 12-month period spanning October 1<sup>st</sup> of a given year and lasting through September 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends, as 9 of the 12 months occur during the latter year. Rather than following a calendar year, a water year does not split the fall and winter seasons because the majority of precipitation tends to occur between October and May. While our current drought may take several years of above average precipitation to fully be quenched, several atmospheric rivers that grazed the north state may help to put us on track for some reprieve.

For those interested in tracking the progress of our current drought and fluctuations in reservoir levels and river flows, the [California Data Exchange Center \(CDEC\)](#) is a tool that can provide valuable information. Operated by the CA Department of Water Resources, [CDEC](#) provides valuable data on hydrologic and climate information surrounding California's water supply, including daily readings of reservoir levels, historical data, real-time river and stream flows, and water quality data.

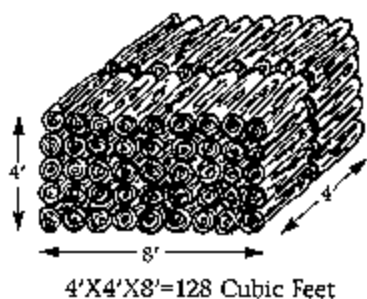
The Daily Hydrologic and Climate Information Summary, which provides information on regional snowpack, precipitation, and major reservoir storage can be found [here](#). For a more detailed information on reservoir storage in major watersheds, the Daily Reservoir Storage Summary can be found [here](#). This includes information on the total storage of individual reservoirs as well as the inflow and outflow of water into these reservoirs. As California struggles to work its way out of the current drought and communities attempt to brace for the lasting impacts of our current situation, it is important that we all stay informed and educated on the state of our resources.

## Information for Buyers/Sellers of Firewood

California Department of Food and Agriculture – Division of Measurement Standards

In California, bulk firewood may only legally be sold by a measurement called a "cord." Firewood, in units of 1/8th of a cord or larger, must be sold by the cord or fraction of a cord. A cord of wood, by law, must equal 128 cubic feet. The volume of wood must be measured when it is "ranked and well stowed." To determine if you have a cord, stack the wood neatly by placing the wood in a line or row with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other. Make sure that the wood is compact with the fewest gaps possible. If the width, multiplied by the height, multiplied by the length equals 128 cubic feet, the volume meets the definition of one cord of firewood.

### Stacking a Cord for Measurement



Some producers of firewood may stack green wood in an offset or crosshatch pattern to help dry the wood by increasing airflow, or to create a more stable structure when stacked. Measurements of the wood lot taken when stacked in this offset pattern are incorrect as the wood is not considered ranked and well stowed. If a properly stacked quantity of wood doesn't equal 128 cubic feet, it is not a cord.

A cord, like other measurements such as a foot, a gallon, or a ton, is defined by law. A seller may not legitimately use terms such as "truckload," "face cord," "rack," or "pile" because these terms have no legally defined meaning and, therefore, you have no way of determining how much firewood you are receiving. If a seller uses such terms, it should alert you to a possible problem. Wood can only be sold by the cord or by fraction of a cord.

Purchasers of firewood should be sure to get a sales invoice or delivery ticket which shows, at minimum, the name and address of the seller, the date purchased or delivered, the quantity purchased, and the price for the quantity purchased. When the wood is delivered, ask the seller to stack it, or stack the wood yourself. Measure the wood before using any. If the cubic measurement indicates less than the correct volume, contact the seller before you burn any wood.

If the seller can't or won't correct the problem, contact the Shasta County Department of Agriculture – Division of Weights and Measures office before you burn any wood. It is also helpful to document the possible shortage by taking pictures of the stacked wood.

## Shasta County Weights and Measures New Weight Truck

Due to regulations put in place by the California Air Resources Board, the Shasta County Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures (SCDA) was required to replace its 1999 Kenworth 800 series with one meeting current air quality regulations. In August 2021, after many months of waiting, the SCDA took possession of a new 2021 Kenworth 800 series retrofitted with the bed and crane obtained from the previous vehicle. While the previous vehicle boasted a 10-speed manual transmission which drove nearly all its operators crazy at one time or another, the new vehicle is equipped with an automatic transmission. The new truck, with the comforts and amenities that accompany modern technology, came as a welcome addition to the department.

The truck carries 20,000 lbs. of certified weight blocks which are handled with a crane mounted on the truck bed. A weight moving cart is carried on the truck to carry the weight blocks onto scales the crane cannot reach. The truck, with all weights and equipment inventoried, is considered a rolling standard. In the case of vehicle scales, where the entire truck is driven onto the scale to observe the weight along different points, the truck must have a certified known weight with everything on board accounted for.



*Shasta County Dept of Weights and Measures new weight truck. The individual weights seen on the bed of the truck are each certified to weigh 1,000 lbs.*

This certified weight is determined by the procedures established in the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) Program Manual under Examination Procedures Outline (EPO) number 7. By following this procedure, the certified weight of the truck with all fluid levels full and all the trucks contents inventoried can be determined. Using this as a certified weight allows the SCDA to roll onto any vehicle scale and determine its accuracy based on tolerances established in regulations. While the old truck weighed in at 44,240 lbs, the new weight truck has a certified weight of 45,760 lbs. New tires, yearly services, or work on any of its inventoried equipment require that the weight of the truck be recertified. Since all the registered vehicle scales in our county are commercial scales, it is important that they be accurate for both the seller and customer as well. Everything on the vehicle, from the wasp and hornet spray to the hardhats, and all consumable fluids such as Diesel fuel and DEF are accurately accounted for to ensure the correct weight of the truck is known at all times

Shasta county has 42 registered Vehicle (Truck) scales, 34 livestock scales, and numerous other heavy scales which require use of the weight truck to be tested. Most vehicle scales have capacities of 100,000lbs and are set to weigh in divisions of 20 lbs (this being the smallest measurable increment the scale will register). With the maximum laden weight of most commercial trucks and trailers being up to 80,000 lbs. for on highway use, these vehicle scales must be capable of withstanding tremendous amounts of weight on a frequent basis. Whether it is a commercial trucking company or a local gravel pit making deliveries for road construction, these scales must stand up to much wear and tear while maintaining accurate weighing capabilities throughout the year. Each vehicle scale is tested by the SCDA on a yearly basis to ensure their accuracy, or if any complaint is filed with our office. With the cost of projects going up every day, and materials and fuel at ever increasing prices, the SCDA works to ensure the scales in our county are accurate and delivering what the customer is paying for.