

SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

Commissioner's Updates

Rick Gurrola - Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights and Measures

Spring is upon us in Shasta County, which offers a reprieve from the cold and sometimes dreary conditions of winter before the heat of summer kicks in. With warm days and cool nights, vast expanses of lush foliage and wildflowers, and an abundance of natural wildlife, springtime in Shasta County is a reminder of the truly special place in which we live. Unfortunately, as we are all aware, springtime in Shasta County won't last long, so we encourage everyone to enjoy the beautiful weather while they can.

Spring is also the time that many residents begin to plant their gardens. For those who are interested in the requirements for selling their surplus produce at farmers' markets, we encourage you to read the article on page 7 regarding Certified Producers Certificates, and to reach out to us with any questions.

As a reminder to all growers, ranchers, and producers in Shasta County, we are currently requesting information on your production in 2020 so we can include this data in our 2020 Crop Report. Questionnaires are available on our website or can be picked up in our office. The information obtained from these questionnaires is important to showcase the robust agricultural economy in Shasta County.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Shasta County - United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA) - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Wildlife Services (WS) - Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program Cooperative Services Agreement has been completed and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April 2021 for certification. Upon certification of the FEIR, and approval of a new Cooperative Services Agreement, USDA-APHIS-WS will be able to assist Shasta County's business/property owners, private citizens, and government agencies in protecting property and resources from damage caused by predators, wild and feral animals, and other nuisance wildlife.

On March 5, 2021 the U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture granted a disaster designations for 50 primary counties, including Shasta, due to drought severity levels of D2 (for eight consecutive weeks), D3, or D4, as identified on the U.S. Drought Monitor. As a result of this designation, farmers and ranchers who conduct familysized farming operations are eligible for emergency farm loans for both physical and crop production losses, up to a maximum of \$500,000. To obtain additional information please visit: <u>Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance</u> or <u>USDA Farm Service</u> <u>Agency Loan Programs.</u>

Lastly, February saw the closing of the Shasta Livestock Auction Yard in Cottonwood. This business had been a pillar in the ranching community since 1962, and the loss of this business to the local ranching community will be greatly missed.

In this issue:	
Spotted Lanternfly	2-3
Second Generation Rodenticides	4
Detection Trapping in Shasta County	5-6
Certified Producers Certificates	7
Pest Exclusion – 2020 Recap	8
CA Water Storage and Snowpack	9-10

Spring 2021

Spotted Lanternfly – A New Pest of Concern

Shasta County Department of Agriculture



The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an insect native to China, is an invasive pest to the United States that was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since its initial detection, it has been found in the neighboring states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersery, and Virginia. The introduction of this pest is believed to have originated from egg masses deposited on imported stone from China. The spotted lanternfly has many commercially important host plants upon which it feeds, including grape, hop, apple, stone fruit, maple, poplar, walnut, and willow. The preferred host of this pest, however, appears to be the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a plant which is considered a

widespread invasive species in California. The spotted lanternfly is considered an A-rated, state quarantine actionable pest, and the introduction and establishment of the spotted lanternfly in California could result in significant economic damage within the agricultural industry. Vineyards in Pennsylvania have reported significant increases in the amount of pesticide applications needed to contend with this pest, as well as reduced fruit quality and marketability of grapes as a result of the sooty mold associated with the spotted lanternfly.

Spotted lanternfly nymphs are known to feed on a wide range of plant species, while adults have shown a stronger affinity for tree-ofheaven. Nymphs undergo 4 instars during their life cycle, with the fourth instar having significantly different coloration than the first three. Spotted lanternflies are considered highly invasive and can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas. While the insect can only fly short distances, its long-distance spread is facilitated by the movement of infested material or items containing egg masses. If allowed to spread within the United States, this pest could damage the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.



SLF Nymph, Instars 1-3. Image: New Jersey Department of Agriculture



SLF Nymph, Instar 4. Image: New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Adult spotted lanternflies are

about 1 inch long and one-half inch wide with large, distinctive wings. Their forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. Their hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front and white and black bars at the rear. Nymphs in their early stages of development appear black with white spots. The 4th instar of the nymph stage displays a distinct red coloration prior to development into adults. Egg masses can be found on the trunks of host plants and on other nearby semi-smooth surfaces, including brick, stone, and dead plants. Egg masses may initially appear grey, but tend to resemble mud or dirt once they have dried, which creates an inconspicuous mass where eggs can develop.

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Both nymph and adult of spotted lanternflies cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and branches. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and potentially contribute to the plant's death. Additionally, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance called honeydew, which encourages the growth of black sooty mold. While the honeydew and corresponding mold are harmless to people, they may draw other pests to the area to feed on the honeydew and can facilitate plant damage through mold and fungal growth. As spotted lanternflies infest trees and swarm the air, the honeydew they excrete can be deposited on vehicles, sidewalks, decks, and any structure located beneath the infestation.



SLF adults swarmed on tree trunk. Image: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Eggs hatch in the spring and early summer, and the nymphs begin feeding on a wide range of host plants by sucking sap from young stems and branches. Adults begin to appear in late July and tend to focus their feeding on the tree-of-heaven (*A. altissima*) and grapevines (*Vitis vinifera*). Adults will then deposit their egg masses onto host material from late summer through early fall. Spotted lanternfly adults and nymphs frequently gather in



large numbers on host plants. In areas where they have become established, they are easiest to spot at dusk as they migrate up and down the trunk of the host plant. During the day, they tend to cluster near the base of the plant if there is adequate cover or in the canopy, making them more difficult to see.

The primary host for the spotted lanternfly, the tree-ofheaven, is an invasive tree native to China capable of growing upwards of 90ft high and can reproduce vigorously through clonal suckers emerging near the parent tree, or through seed dispersal. Due to the ability of the tree to resprout from roots or cut stumps, an established plant can be long-lived and difficult to eradicate. The tree-of-heaven is considered widespread and is known to occur in at least 39 counties in California. Distribution is widespread in Shasta County, and estab-

lished plants can be found along disturbed areas such as roadsides and railway corridors, as well as in riparian areas. Homeowners with tree-of-heaven on their property are encouraged to control its spread.

The Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) would like to remind all residents to be on the lookout for the spotted lanternfly. Suspected infestations, pest samples, or suspected egg masses can be reported or provided to the Shasta County Department of Agriculture. For more information, contact the SCDA at (530) 224-4949, or visit the link below.

USDA APHIS | Spotted Lanternfly

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Shasta County Department of Agriculture

On September 29, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1788 which largely prohibits the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), due to the risk posed to non-target wildlife. SGARs work by preventing blood clotting, resulting in pests that die as a result of internal hemorrhaging after consuming the product. Because SGARs have a long half-life, pests that consume these products may still retain high concentrations of SGARs after their death. Pests that consume SGARs may be consumed by their natural predators or scavengers who are then subjected to sublethal doses of the pesticide. This can lead to an accumulation of SGARs in non-target species causing long-term health impacts or mortality. AB 1788, which became effective January 1, 2021, imposes additional restrictions on the use of four SGARs (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone) statewide until the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation, in consultation with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, completes its SGAR reevaluation and adopts any additional necessary restrictions.

Although AB 1788 largely restricts the use of SGARs, there are limited exemptions for specified activities, such as use in agriculture and locations necessary for public health and safety. Under the amended law, prohibited uses include residential and most industrial and institutional uses. This includes a prohibition on use in and around homes and residences, restaurants, grocery stores, airports, offices, construction sites, transport vehicles (trains, aircraft), timber yards, schools, shopping malls, sewers, and sewage treatment plants. Many uses in landscaped settings are also prohibited (such as use around man-made structures at cemeteries, golf courses, and parks). Pest control businesses must be familiar with the specific exempted activities prior to using products which contain SGARs, and are encouraged to contact their County Agricultural Commissioner with any questions. For those allowed uses and users, current pesticide laws and regulations (including product labeling, permit requirements, licensing and certification requirements) must continue to be followed.

End users who may still have SGARs in storage and wishing to dispose of these products can consider contacting the dealer or registrant about returning their products, or contact their local hazardous waste disposal program for how to appropriately dispose of SGARs. For uses requiring a restricted material permit, the permittee is allowed, under 3 CCR section 6412(b), to retain possession, except for sale, of any restricted material listed on the permit after the permit expires. However, continued use of these products outside of the specified use exemptions remains prohibited.

The text of AB 1788 can be viewed at: <u>https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextCli-ent.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1788</u>

For more information, please visit: <u>https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/county/cacltrs/penfltrs/penf2020/202020.htm</u> <u>http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/acwm/235831_FAQRodentsandRodenticides.pdf</u> <u>https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/new-california-law-protecting-animals-super-toxic-rat-</u> poisons-takes-effect-2021-2020-12-29/ 3179 BECHELLI LN STE 210 · REDDING, CA 96002 · (530) 224-4949

Pest Detection in Shasta County

Jennifer Tiehm - Shasta County Department of Agriculture

The Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) participates in the statewide pest detection trapping program. Early detection and rapid response to a pest infestation are key to mitigating the adverse impacts on agriculture and the environment, and ultimately controlling or eradicating the pest. The objective of the program is to discover pests before they become widely established in an area, and to limit or control their spread after an initial detection. The detection program focuses on the most high-risk pests which, if allowed to become established, could significantly impact on the state's agricultural industry.

Traps are placed throughout the county for ten insect pest species. Early trap deployment begins in March with Glassy Winged Sharpshooter traps being placed at local nurseries. By mid-summer, trapping season is in full swing with over 1,300 traps in service throughout the county targeting a variety of different pests. Traps are located on properties with prime host plants. Detection trapping is normally concluded by October 31st, as cool temperatures and pest lifecycles create a dormant period for targeted pests. Pest Detection Specialists from the SCDA inspect and service traps every fourteen days and, depending on the targeted pest, may relocate traps throughout the season to new locations. Suspected pests are sent to the state entomology lab in Sacramento for official identification. If a targeted pest is confirmed, additional traps are deployed in the area, and inspection frequency is increased. Depending on factors such as the pest species, the number of individuals detected, and fertility and sex of the pest, additional measures may include increased trap density, removal of fruit from infested properties, sterile male releases, or chemical control on infested properties via ground applications.



Fruit Fly detection trapping in Shasta County focuses primarily on the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, and Melon Fruit Fly. Two Oriental Fruit Flies (OFF) were detected in traps in the Redding area in 2018, which triggered two delimitations and saw a peak of 429 OFF traps in service during this time. No additional OFFs were detected in the trapping seasons of 2019 and 2020. Invasive





fruit flies lay their eggs inside many types of ripening fruit,

and the fly maggots feed inside, destroying the fruit. Fruit fly traps are hung on or near trees or gardens with ripe fruit. The traps are baited with an attractant meant to lure the pest to the trap. Establishment of invasive fruit flies can cause significant damage to the state's agricultural economy and cause significant losses to home and community gardens, which many people rely on for a supply of fresh and sustainable food.



Traps for the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), a type of leafhopper, are placed at retail plant nurseries in March, with the remainder of the traps being placed in May. Traps are bright yellow to attract the GWSS and can often be seen on the sunny side of host trees. GWSS are carriers of *Xylella fastidiosa*, a plant bacterium that causes Pierce's Disease in grapevines, Alfalfa Dwarf, and



Leaf Scorch in almond and oleander.

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New this year, in cooperation with University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources, SCDA will be placing monitoring traps for Invasive Shot Hole Borers

(ISHB). ISHB are small ambrosia beetles roughly the size of sesame seeds that bore into trunks of trees. ISHB are carriers of a new fungus species in the genus *Fusarium* that causes the plant disease Fusarium Die-

back. Trees known at this time to be affected by this new disease include avocado, boxelder, sycamore, sweetgum, cottonwood, willow, and oak.





Expanded trapping for Gypsy Moth (GM) and Khapra Beetle (KB) will continue this year. In 2019, SCDA received increased funding from CDFA to expand its existing detection trapping for GM and Medfly, and to reinstate detection traps for KB. Trapping for KB will take place at high risk grain facilities, where KB can infest raw grain and processed grain products. GM trapping expansion includes the communities of Oak Run,



Whitmore, and Shingletown. An infestation of GM can lead to complete defoliation of trees, including pine and oak, as a result of caterpillars feeding on the leaves.

PEST	TRAPPING	PRIMARY HOSTS	#	COMMUNITIES	
	SEASON	(Not all inclusive)	TRAPS	MONITORED	
GLASSY-WINGED	Mar. 1^{st} –	Crepe Myrtle, Privet, Photinia, Olean-	297	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
SHARPSHOOTER	Oct. 31 st	der, Sweetgum, Citrus, Grape, Plum,		wood, Happy Valley, Bella	
		Pear, Olive, Alfalfa		Vista, Palo Cedro, Shasta Lake	
LIGHT BROWN APPLE	May 1 st –	Apple, Pear, Citrus, Peach, Almond,	192	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
MOTH	Oct. 31 st	Walnut, Grape, Strawberry, Olive,		wood, Happy Valley, Bella	
		Oak, Pine, Privet, Photinia		Vista, Palo Cedro, Shasta Lake	
MEDITERRANEAN	May 1 st –	Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Loquat, Fig,	182	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
FRUIT FLY	Oct. 31 st	Persimmon, Plum, Cherry, Citrus,		wood, Happy Valley, Bella	
		Pear, Apple		Vista, Palo Cedro, Shasta Lake	
ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY	May 1 st –	Plum, Cherry, Loquat, Peach, Nectar-	60	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
	Oct. 31 st	ine, Apricot, Fig, Persimmon, Citrus,		wood, Palo Cedro, Shasta	
		Pear, Apple		Lake	
MELON FRUIT FLY	June 1 st –	Melon, Squash, Pumpkin, Cucumber,	60	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
	Oct. 31 st	Tomato, Peppers, Green Beans, Citrus,		wood, Palo Cedro,	
		Stone Fruits		Shasta Lake	
GYPSY MOTH	June 1 st –	Pine, Oak, Sweetgum, Alder, Birch,	415	County Wide	
	Sept. 15 th	Aspen, Poplar, Willow, Apple			
JAPANESE BEETLE	June 1 st –	Lawn / Turf, Rose, Grape, Apple,	80	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
	Sept. 15 th	Cherry, Peach, Almond, Olive, Wil-		wood, Palo Cedro,	
	-	low, Oak		Shasta Lake	
KHAPRA BEETLE	May 1 st –	Grain and Grain Products (including	12	Redding	
	Oct. 31 st	flour, and milled grain)			
INVASIVE SHOT HOLE	Mar. 1^{st} –	Boxelder, Sycamore, Oak, Cotton-	24	Redding, Anderson, Cotton-	
BORERS	Oct. 31 st	wood, Willow		wood, Palo Cedro	

Certified Producers Certificates and Farmers' Markets

John Ingram – Deputy Commissioner/Sealer – Shasta County Department of Agriculture

Spring is the time of year when those with a green thumb are busy preparing their gardens. Those with an exceptional green thumb, an entrepreneurial spirit, and the space and time to tend to a large garden may start to consider selling their surplus produce at a local farmers' market or roadside stand. Those who find themselves in this position may start to wonder, what is required for one to sell at a farmers' market and what costs are associated with getting registered to sell to the public?

The process is quite simple - it may take some time filling out



the initial paperwork, but once the initial registration is complete, the year-to-year renewal can be completed with ease. For someone looking to sell their fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, shell eggs, nursery stock or honey at a farmers' market, they first must obtain a Certified Producer's Certificate (CPC) from their local agricultural commissioner's office. To apply for a CPC, the grower must provide a list of all the commodities they plan to sell for the year including the varieties, amount grown, estimated production, and approximate harvest season. Once this information is known, one can apply for a CPC. The fee for the CPC is \$20.00 each year and will allow the grower to sell their harvest at local farmers' markets and roadside stands. The CPC program ensures that the commodities offered for sale are of the grower's own production and not commodities bought and sold on a commercial level, which helps protect the farm-to-table spirit of a local farmers' market.

For growers who only plan to sell at or near the place of production, no paperwork is needed from the county agricultural commissioner. One can simply sell all extra commodities without any special paperwork from their agricultural commissioner's office, provided that sales occur at or near the place of production. If one plans to load up these extra commodities and sell in town, a CPC will need to be obtained for these commodities to be sold offsite. If one is looking to sell their produce offsite without utilizing a certified producer certificate, regulations such as standard pack, standard size, and labeling requirements, will all apply.

For those planning to sell eggs, nursery stock, or sell their products as "organic" from their home or at a market, additional licensing is required. Those wishing to designate their commodities as "organic" are encouraged to visit the Shasta County Department of Agriculture website for more information.

For information on CPCs and farmers' markets, please visit: <u>https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/ag-wm/ag-programs/farmers-markets</u>

For information of organic designations, please visit: <u>https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/ag-wm/ag-programs/organic</u>

For information on standardization requirements, please visit: <u>https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/i & c/standardization.html</u>

High Risk Pest Exclusion – 2020 Recap

Shasta County Department of Agriculture

The Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) regularly conducts inspections of plant material and nursery stock moving through parcel handling facilities such as FedEx, UPS, and USPS. Parcels moving through these facilities in Shasta County are destined for multiple north state counties, including Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, Siskiyou, and Modoc. SCDA staff at these facilities inspect parcels for plant material and the presence of live pests, and to ensure that California entry requirements are met. Certain plant material entering California may be subject to phytosanitary requirements and must be certified by agricultural officers at their point of origin. Insects, fungal pathogens, and plant viruses originating in areas outside of California can pose a serious threat to California's agricultural economy, to the natural environment, and can be a general nuisance to the public. The introduction of foreign pests can result in increased food costs and an increase in pesticide use.

During the 2020 calendar year, inspections at parcel handling facilities in Shasta County yielded:

(20) A-rated pests

A-rated pests are those of known economic or environmental detriment and are either not known to be established in California or are present in a limited distribution that allows for the possibility of eradication or successful containment. A-rated pests are prohibited from entering the state and have been placed on the Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Director's list of organisms "detrimental to agriculture" in accordance with the FAC Sections 5261 and 6461.

A-rated species intercepted during 2020 include the sansevieria scale, mango shield scale, lesser snow scale, boxwood scale, black thread scale, trilobe scale, mealybug species *Pseudococcus jackbearsleyi*, and ant species *Ochetellus glaber*.

(86) Q-rated pests

Q-rated pests are organisms or disorders requiring a temporary "A" action pending determination of a permanent rating. The pest is suspected to be of economic importance, but its status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information.

(3) B-rated pests

B-rated pests are those of known economic or environmental detriment and, if present in California, are of limited distribution. If found in the state, they are subject to holding action and eradication only to provide for containment, as when found in a nursery. At the discretion of the individual county agricultural commissioner, they are subject to eradication, containment, suppression, control, or other holding action.

(80) C-rated pests

C-rated pests are those of known economic or environmental detriment and, if present in California, are usually widespread. C-rated organisms are eligible to enter the state as long as the articles with which they are associated conform to pest cleanliness standards. If found in the state, they are subject to regulations designed to suppress spread at the discretion of the individual county agricultural commissioner.

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California Water Storage – 2021 Update

Shasta County Department of Agriculture

As most California residents are aware, the weather in our state, particularly the reliability of rain and snow, can be unpredictable and vary greatly from year to year. The snowpack, in particular, is critical to California's water supply as the runoff provides much needed water to replenish the state's reservoirs throughout the early summer months. During normal years, the snowpack may provide one-third of the water used by cities and farms. Snow survey measurements taken from various locations throughout California's Sierra Nevada and Shasta-Trinity mountains assess the snow depth, and the water content stored in a given volume of snow. These measurements are compared to the April 1st average, which is the historical date when the snowpack in California is most robust. This data is used in determining water allocations in California's vast agricultural regions. The rainy season in California was off to a slow start in Fall 2020, but several good weather events did eventually arrive, including a February storm that dropped snow in much of Shasta County and temporarily shuttered schools and business. These events, however, have not been enough to bring California's reservoirs and snowpack up to historical levels.

As of April 1st, 2021, Lake Shasta stands at



53% of total capacity and 65% of its historical average. Trinity Lake stands at 53% of total capacity, and 67% of its historical average, and Lake Oroville stands at 41% of total capacity, and 54% of its historical average.

Much of California remains in some state of drought, with 90.6% of the state's population experiencing drought conditions as of April 1st, 2021, which represents over 32 million people. When those living in "abnormally dry" conditions are added to the total, over 99% of the state is without normal rainfall. The National Integrated Drought Information System estimates approximately 24.5% of Shasta County is in category D3 "extreme drought" and the remainder of the county in category D2 "severe drought".

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Statewide, the total snowpack stands at 59% of its historical April 1st average. In the Northern Sierra and Trinity region, the snowpack measures in at 66% of average. The average snow-water equivalent for the snowpack in this region is 18.4".

Snowpack data for April 1st, 2021 is roughly similar to this time last year, when the April 1st, 2020 statewide average stood at only 54% of normal.

NORTH		SOUTH	
Data For: 01-Apr-2021		Data For: 01-Apr-2021	
Number of Stations Reporting	31	Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent	18.4"	Average snow water equivalent	10.2
Percent of April 1 Average	66%	Percent of April 1 Average	41%
Percent of normal for this date	66%	Percent of normal for this date	41%
CENTRAL		STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For: 01-Apr-2021	_	Data For: 01-Apr-2021	
Number of Stations Reporting	41	Number of Stations Reporting	97
Average snow water equivalent	18.8"	Average snow water equivalent	16.5
Percent of April 1 Average	63%	Percent of April 1 Average	59%
Percent of normal for this date	63%	Percent of normal for this date	59%

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 01-Apr-2021

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Above: Current snowpack by region showing snowpack data as of April 1st, 2020. Information provided by California Cooperative Snow Surveys and California Department of Water Resources. Current snowpack information is available at: https://cdec.water.ca.gov/snowapp/sweq.action

Map released: Thurs. April 1, 2021



Water Resources.



Brad Pugh, NOAA/CPC

Current drought conditions in California as reported on the United States Drought Monitor. For more information on drought conditions in California and across the US, visit <u>https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu</u> or <u>California</u> <u>Drought.gov</u>