

## Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS)

### What is it?

This leafhopper causes direct damage through its feeding activities and excrement 'showers'. However, the greatest threat associated with this pest is as the highly efficient vector of *Xylella fastidiosa*, which causes Almond leaf scorch. It is a strong flier and can travel large distances directly or as a hitchhiker on plant material.

GWSS feeds and reproduces on a wide range of host plants, most of which can be infected by the pathogenic bacterium. The bacterium is delivered into the water conducting tissues of the host plants through the piercing and sucking feeding action of GWSS.

### What to look for?

Adult GWSS are 13-14 mm long and easily seen with the naked eye. They are dark brown-black with yellow dots on head and body (thorax). Their wings are translucent with reddish veins.

'Clutches' of up to 27 eggs are laid on the underside of leaves in a side-by-side arrangement. Eggs are deposited just under the leaf surface giving a blister-like appearance. Egg masses on imported plant material (especially ornamentals) are a significant threat.



Phil A Phillips

Adult GWSS



Reyes Garcia III

Egg mass ready to hatch

### Where is it found?

GWSS is found in eastern and western USA and in Mexico. Recently the GWSS has been detected in a number of new locations, including the neighbouring countries of Tahiti and the Cook Islands.



Johnny N. Dell

Adult GWSS on leaf surface



PaDiL

Adult GWSS



Russ Olters

Side view of adult GWSS on a plant stem

Crepe myrtles and many other commercial and ornamental woody and annual plants may harbour the insect. Commercial hosts like almonds, citrus and grapes would be threatened if GWSS became established, particularly if it carries *X. fastidiosa*.

### What is the best protection for my orchard?

Limit unnecessary movement of landscape and commercial plant material in leaf. Thoroughly inspect plant material introduced to your orchard and residential surrounds for egg masses and insects. Dispose of all orchard waste plant material appropriately, through deep burial, burning or hot composting.

Report neglected orchards and feral almonds to your local department of primary industry.

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pests and insects that inhabit vegetation neighbouring your almond orchard so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual,  
call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline  
on 1800 084 881.**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**

Disclaimer: The material in this publication is for general information only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of this material without first obtaining professional advice. Plant Health Australia and all persons acting for Plant Health Australia expressly disclaim liability with respect to anything done in reliance on this publication.