

Glassy winged sharpshooter

Homalodisca vitripennis (high priority exotic pest when carrying *Xylella fastidiosa*)

Which crops does it affect?

The glassy winged sharp shooter has a broad host range (over 300 species) including sweet cherry. Other hosts include citrus, plum, almond, peach, blackberry, grapevine, blueberry, bottlebrush, bougainvillea, camellia, acacia, chrysanthemum, macadamia and pistachio.

The glassy winged sharp shooter also carries and spreads the pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* which impacts sweet and sour cherries (page 46).

What does it look like?

- *Homalodisca vitripennis* is a large insect (about 13 mm).
- It is generally brown to black, but the underside of the abdomen is whitish. The upper aspect of the head and thorax is brown or black with numerous ivory to yellowish spots.
- Sausage-shaped eggs are laid side-by-side in masses averaging 10-11 eggs. The egg masses appear as greenish elongated water blisters beneath the leaf.
- The nymphs are dark grey (first and second stage) to grey (third to fifth stage).
- The cast-off skin from the last moult of the nymphs often sticks to the stem or leaf surface.

Which part of the plant will be damaged?

Leaves, stems and the whole plant.

What should I look for?

- *H. vitripennis* is a stem feeder and leaves no visible symptoms of its feeding other than a white, powdery, dried excrement on plant surfaces.
- High densities of feeding sharpshooters excrete enough waste product to cause a 'rain', which falls from the trees.

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How does it spread?

Glassy winged sharpshooters are spread by natural movement, infested plant material and assisted by humans.

- Nymphs are capable of short distance movement, while adults are strong flyers.
- Rapid and long-distance dispersal by egg masses occurs via nursery stock and human assisted movement of contaminated materials in vehicles.
- Plant trade can move fruit, leaves and stems infested with eggs, nymphs and adults long distances.



Adult glassy winged sharpshooter.

Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org



Glassy winged sharpshooter nymphs.

Kenneth Peek, Alameda County Department of Agriculture, USA

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881