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PRESS RELEASE

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New Information on Pest Threatening Arizona's Vineyards

(Phoenix) – The Arizona Department of Agriculture has begun eradication of Glassy Winged Sharpshooters in Sierra Vista this week and also continues to ascertain the magnitude of the problem in that region. The insect, initially found in the stock of a nursery in Sierra Vista, Arizona, stands to cause harm to key portions of Arizona's agriculture industry.

The Glassy Winged Sharpshooter is the **primary carrier** of Pierce's Disease, an infection of the grapevine that has no viable remedy and has the potential to wipe-out the \$18 million wine growing industry here in Arizona and impact vineyard crops. In addition, the pest stands to threaten one of Arizona's key landscaping ornamentals – the oleander.

What is new?

- Treatments continue in approximately a ½ mile radius from the nursery in Sierra Vista, Arizona.
- 719 traps have strategically been placed up to 1 ½ miles from the initial find.
- 26 adults (13 males and 13 females) and 4 egg masses have been detected to date.

What was the timeline of events?

- A male and female were first detected in Sierra Vista on August 31, 2005 in a trap that was set out as part of more than 800 traps throughout the state to monitor for this pest.
- On September 8, 2005 an additional 140 traps were placed in key areas around the Sierra Vista nursery to determine the magnitude of this problem.

What is the history of this pest and how does it operate?

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is native to the southeastern United States. It was first found in California in 1990 and has threatened many of the vineyards in that region. This leafhopper is a large insect, almost a half-inch in length. It is a dark brown to black. Its head and back are stippled with either ivory or yellowish spots. It receives its name from its transparent wings. The glassy-winged sharpshooter can fly up to one-quarter of a mile, and it frequently appears in high numbers. The insect is able to survive winter temperatures dipping as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

The insect overwinters as an adult. It begins laying egg masses from late February through May. The year's first generation matures as adults from May through August. The year's second generation begins as egg masses laid from June through September. It is this generation that produces the next year's offspring.

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