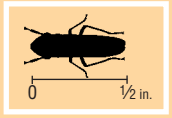
Glassy-winged sharpshooter eggs are laid together on the underside of leaves, usually in groups of 10 to 12. The egg masses appear as small, greenish blisters. These blisters are easier to observe after the eggs hatch, when they appear as tan to brown scars on the leaves.

Parasitized egg masses are tan to brown in color with small, circular holes at one end of the eggs.

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER



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The brown scars left by the egg masses on the underside of the leaf are easier to see after the nymphs emerge from the eggs. A leaf may have more than one egg mass.

Female with white secretion on the wings that she later uses to cover the newly laid egg masses.

This informational brochure was produced by ANR Communication Services for the University of California Pierce's Disease Research and Emergency Response Task Force. You may download a copy and find additional resources from the University of California Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Workgroup Web site at http://gwss.ucanr.org.

For local information, contact your UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor or county agricultural commissioner:

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

A Serious Threat to California Agriculture

FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S
PIERCE'S DISEASE RESEARCH AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE

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GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER

The glassy-winged sharpshooter (*Homalodisca vitripennis**) is a serious pest in California.

Native to the southeast United States, this insect was first observed in California in 1990 and is now established in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties and has been sporadically found in a few cities of Northern California. It is a particular threat to California vineyards due to its ability to spread *Xylella fastidiosa*, the bacterium that causes Pierce's disease. Pierce's disease kills grapevines, and there are no effective treatments for it. Glassy-winged sharpshooters led to a Pierce's disease epidemic in the Temecula region of Southern California that continues to threaten the survival of its viticultural industry.

The immature nymphs are wingless.

In addition to Pierce's disease, various strains of *X. fastidiosa* cause scorch disease of almond, oleander, mulberry, olive and liquidamber. It also causes alfalfa dwarf and citrus variegated chlorosis. The potential spread of these diseases by the glassy-winged sharpshooter should be of concern to landscape professionals and agricultural producers throughout California.

Glassy-winged sharpshooters are large insects, about 1/2 inch long.

*formerly *Homalodisca coagulata*

Identification

The glassy-winged sharpshooter ranges over many habitats, including agricultural crops, urban landscapes, native woodlands and riparian vegetation. It feeds on hundreds of plant species including woody plants and annual and perennial herbaceous plants. It occurs in high numbers on citrus. Common landscape host plants include bird of paradise, eucalyptus, euonymus, crape myrtle, pittosporum, sunflower, hibiscus, xylosma and cottonwood, among many others. On most plants, it feeds on stems rather than leaves. When feeding, it excretes copious amounts of watery excrement in a steady stream of small droplets. In urban areas, this "leafhopper rain" can be a messy nuisance. When dry, the excrement can give plants a whitewashed appearance, which reduces fruit quality particularly on citrus.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter gets its name from its transparent wings.

The adult glassy-winged sharpshooter is a large insect, almost 1/2 inch (12 mm) long, and is dark brown to black with a lighter underside. The upper parts of the head and back are stippled with ivory or yellowish spots and the wings are partly transparent with reddish veins. Adult females may have large white spots on their upper wings. This white substance, secreted by the female, is used to cover freshly laid egg masses. The nymphs are wingless, mottled olive gray in color and are variable in size, depending on their stage.

This citrus has been white-washed with the insect's watery excrement.

Detection

Early detection of the glassy-winged sharpshooter in non-infested areas of California is important for developing control strategies.

A map of glassy-winged sharpshooter infested areas in California can be found on the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pierce's Disease Control Program Web site at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/. Yellow sticky traps, even those used to detect other insects such as apple maggots or blue-green sharpshooters, are useful for monitoring the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Plants can be examined by direct observation or by using a sweep net. Look for adult insects, nymphs and egg masses.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is shown next to the smaller blue-green sharpshooter.

If you find egg masses or insects in a non-infested area that you suspect to be the glassy-winged sharpshooter, please contact your local UC Cooperative Extension office and/or your county agricultural commissioner. They can help with insect collection and positive identification. Please take specimens, if possible, and note where and when they were collected and on which plants they were found.