

# Importing Grape Materials into Placer and Nevada Counties

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There are a number of restrictions on movement of grapes, grapevines, cuttings, and equipment into Placer and Nevada Counties. We are relatively small, unknown counties in the scope of the California grape industry and nurseries in other counties may not be aware of the restrictions. This can be merely annoying or may create a major setback to the development of your vineyard if you are not aware of the regulations and come face to face with them *after* you have made your plans. So, it is important to inform yourself before you purchase fruit, vines, or used equipment from other counties.

The quarantine laws were put in place to prevent movement of insect pests and diseases into our foothill counties. These regulations exist **to protect you and our winegrape industry**. To help you understand what is required, here is a synopsis of the relevant regulations. The complete text on quarantines between counties within California can be found under County Restrictions at [http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pgm/manual/html/pgm\\_index.htm#interior](http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/pgm/manual/html/pgm_index.htm#interior)

Restrictions on import of fruit, grapevine materials, and vineyard equipment are related to European grapevine moth (EGVM), *Phylloxera*, and Glassy winged sharpshooter (GWSS) in Placer and Nevada Counties. There is also a quarantine against Western grape leaf skeletonizer in Nevada County, which is found occasionally in Placer County. Other foothill counties have similar regulations. California Nursery Stock Certificates are not sufficient for shipping grapevines and cuttings to Placer and Nevada Counties. All grape plant material should be shipped under blue tag, to be held for inspection by the agricultural commissioner's department.

## European Grapevine Moth

European grapevine moth (EGVM) is the latest of the invasive insect pests to California and threaten California wine and grape industries. Most major California grape growing areas, including Nevada County, were subject to quarantines at some point in the last decade because of pest presence. However, as of 2014, all quarantines except for parts of Napa and Sonoma counties have been lifted.

Movement of grapes, grape plant

material, or equipment from these areas is restricted and subject to quarantine compliance agreements with the origin grower, the transporter, and our county Ag Commissioners.

EGVM may hitchhike on farm equipment as larvae or pupae. Thus, equipment sanitation is critical, especially machinery and containers that come in contact with fruit during harvest. Equipment should be pressure washed, before being moved to another vineyard.

## Grape Phylloxera

All grapevines and cuttings (rooted and otherwise) have to be held and inspected by the Ag commissioner when they arrive in Placer or Nevada County. They must carry an origin certificate, or a treatment certificate, if they are coming from areas with Phylloxera. The Ag Commissioner's department in the county of origin issues the origin certificate, which states "no grape Phylloxera is known to exist in the area where the vines or cuttings were grown". If Phylloxera is in the area, then the plant material must be treated and accompanied by a certificate of



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treatment. If the material is coming from an infested area, it must be treated by:

- Hot Water Treatment: Complete submergence in water at a temperature of 125°F for 5 minutes or 130° F for 3 minutes (we suggest 125°F for 5 minutes). OR
- Methyl Bromide Fumigation in an approved gas-tight fumigation chamber, with a dosage of two pounds of methyl bromide per 1,000 cu. ft. for a period of three hours at a temperature of not less than 65°F.

There are also restrictions on movement of tractors, grape picking boxes, used grape stakes, and other vineyard equipment. Any such equipment must be inspected upon arrival in Placer/Nevada, and should be accompanied by an origin certificate attesting that it has not been used in a Phylloxera-infested area or that it has been thoroughly cleaned prior to entry into the county.

**Western Grape-Leaf Skeletonizer**

By Nevada County ordinance, grapevines bearing leaves are prohibited entry unless accompanied by an origin certificate or a treatment certificate for Western grape-leaf skeletonizer and must be inspected by the Ag commissioner. The origin certificate, issued by the Ag commissioner in the county of origin certifies that the pest does not occur in the area and includes the statement "No GLS is known to exist in the area where the vines were grown or held." If Western grape-leaf

skeletonizer exists in the county of origin, the shipment must have a treatment certificate certifying that the grapevines have been treated by at least one of the following methods:

- Treatment with 6 to 8 pounds of cryolite per acre, with thorough cover; and/or
- Other treatment approved in writing by the Nevada County agricultural commissioner.

**Glassy Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)**

Most California residents are aware of the devastation wrought by the GWSS in some grape-growing areas of California. We **don't** want it here, and as responsible members of the Ag community, we need to do everything possible to try to prevent its introduction. That includes ensuring that grapevine and bulk grape shipments from infested counties have been inspected, treated, and certified before they get here.

Treatment of GWSS hosts usually involves foliar treatment with imidacloprid (Merit® or Provado®) or fenpropathrin (Danitol® or Tame®).

GWSS infested areas in California include the entire counties of Los Angeles, Orange,

Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, and portions of: Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and Tulare counties. Plant material from these areas must be shipped under blue tag, not California Nursery Stock Certificate, and has to be held for inspection by the Ag Commissioner.

Several hundred plant species are host to GWSS, including many ornamental plants, citrus, and grapes. Plant material, other than dormant, leafless, bareroot stock, from infested counties must be inspected by the Ag Commissioner's office. Bulk grapes are also subject to this restriction. Any plant shipments found infested with GWSS may be sent back to the county of origin or destroyed.

Nurseries should be aware of these restrictions, but they often are not. It is the grower's responsibility to be sure that they do know and you need to make sure they follow them. Direct them to the county regulations website and check to be sure that they are in compliance. Otherwise, your vines may be returned to the county of origin, and that may be a real setback to your vineyard development.

**WARNING ON THE USE OF CHEMICALS**

Pesticides are poisonous. Always read and carefully follow all precautions and safety recommendations given on the container label. Store all chemicals in the original labeled containers in a locked cabinet or shed, away from food or feeds, and out of the reach of children, unauthorized persons, pets, and livestock.

Confine chemicals to the property being treated. Avoid drift onto neighboring properties, especially gardens containing fruits and/or vegetables ready to be picked.

Dispose of empty containers carefully. Follow label instructions for disposal. Never reuse containers. Make sure empty containers are not accessible to children or animals. Never dispose of containers where they may contaminate water supplies or natural waterways. Do not pour down sink or toilet. Consult your county agricultural commissioner for correct ways of disposing of excess pesticides. Never burn pesticide containers.