Our biggest mistake now would be to think this disease is no longer a problem. Ultimately, continued research is going to be the only way to someday find a means of putting the threat of Pierce’s disease behind us.

NIE SANGAPOD
Nintege Grape Grower, Camarosa Region, Sonoma County

FUNDING
Where It Comes From

How It Is Spent

OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN INVESTED IN PROTECTING CALIFORNIA’S GRAPE-GROWING AREAS FROM PD AND GWSS. DURING THIS TIME, GOVERNMENT FUNDS HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY USED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GWSS TO NEW AREAS OR TO MANAGE GWSS IN AREAS IT HAS ALREADY REACHED, WHILE INDUSTRY FUNDS COLLECTED VIA THE PD/GWSS BOARD ASSESSMENT HAVE BEEN USED TO SUPPORT RESEARCH SEEKING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE PD THREAT. THIS SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY HAS CREATED AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET THE THREAT. THIS SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY HAS CREATED AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET THE THREAT.

BREAKING PD-RESISTANT WINEGRAPE: While creating a GWSS-resistant grapevines, it has proven difficult to get a crop to F1. One of the most exciting board-funded research projects has identified a F1-plant that grows four seasons per year, which has helped pave the way to the development of 120 F1-resistant grape varieties.

LOOKING INSIDE PLANTS FOR A CURE: Researchers have discovered compounds which appear to be effective at stopping or greatly reducing the symptoms of PD in grapevines. Additional studies are in need of methods of applying or having the vines ingest these compounds which appear to work, resulting in preventing or reducing PDs in the vineyard. This research, once underway, will likely take several years to begin.

UNDERSTANDING THE DISEASE: Lessons learned during the 1990 trespass boundary study has given us a wealth of information to work from. By understanding how the disease is spread, we can develop effective management tools to reduce risk.

IDENTIFYING PLANT HOSTS: The plants and trees surrounding vineyards could actually serve as hosts for PD or GWSS. Thanks to research, growers now have a better idea of the common landscaping plants and trees most likely to have these pests, and we can now avoid border row-to-border backbreaking decisions.

DOING HIPHOP FOR PD: This is a fun way to educate and alert GWSS eggs before they can hatch and become part of the population. Over 7,000 natural enemies of the pest have been released since the start of the program.

A unique partnership of state, federal, and local agriculture departments, industry, and research institutions is not only controlling the pest, but through research is also building a foundation of new information and advances helping to close in on solutions to Pierce’s disease.
”This office, as well as all county ag commissioners throughout the state, has had to be constant vigilance to ensure GWS isn’t moved into new areas of California. We have been successful so far thanks to the effective working partnerships formed among the grape, citrus, and nursery industries, and county, state, and Federal agencies.”

SCOTT HODSON, San Joaquin County Ag Commissioner

Moving Plants Without Spreading the Pest

GWS Nursery Shipping Protocol: Every county in California has established protocols and guidelines for counties to monitor and inspect nursery stock for GWS. The purpose is to stop or slow the spread of GWS while it is still in an early, manageable stage. This protocol also ensures that fruit and nursery industries in non-infested areas are protected.

GWSS is present in 13 of California’s 15 counties. County offices of county, state and federal agencies have partnered to prevent the spread and establishment of GWSS in Northern California.

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GWSS and Pierce’s Disease in California as of 2007

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"This success of the program can be seen in that we don’t have glassy-winged sharpshooters in our vineyards while they are just over the hill from us here in Santa Barbara County.”

Rлан Rossini, grape grower, Denair

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