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Colusa County Warns of Invasive Pest in Costco Grape Plants

Officials urge residents who bought grapevines since April 21 to help inspect for the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

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Colusa County agricultural officials are asking residents for help after grapevines sold through Costco were found to be infested with the glassy-winged sharpshooter, an invasive insect that can spread Pierce’s disease, a fatal threat to grapevines and a concern for vineyards across California.

The county said the affected grapevine plants were sold at Costco stores throughout the region, including locations in counties near Colusa County. Residents who bought grapevines since April 21 are being urged to contact the Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office so staff can inspect the plants, collect samples if needed and place monitoring traps to see whether the pest has spread.

M. Anastacia Allen, the county agricultural commissioner, said early detection and public cooperation are critical to stopping invasive pests that can cause long-term damage to the local farm economy. Colusa County agriculture is a major part of the area’s economy and identity, she said.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is native to the southeastern United States and Mexico. California first identified it in the 1990s, and it is now established in parts of Central and Southern California. The insect feeds on more than 250 plant species and can carry the bacterium that causes Pierce’s disease, which can kill grapevines and also affect ornamental plants.

County officials said residents who recently purchased or received grapevine plants from Costco should contact the agricultural commissioner’s office for evaluation. The office can be reached at (530) 458-0580 or ccag@countyofcolusaca.gov.