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Consumer Alert: Residents Urged to Take Precautions After Invasive Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Detected

Hayward, CA – Local agricultural officials are urging residents to take immediate precautions after the invasive [glassy-winged sharpshooter](#) was detected on grape plants sold at Bay Area Costco stores. The grapevines were shipped from Burchell Nursery in Fresno County and have been found to be infested with glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), a serious agricultural pest of concern.

This leafhopper spreads [Pierce's disease](#), a bacterial infection that is fatal to grapevines and can also damage almond, citrus and ornamental plants, posing a significant threat to California agriculture and home gardens.

Anyone who purchased grape plants from Bay Area Costco stores beginning April 21 is asked to help prevent further spread of the pest by contacting their local [county agricultural commissioner's office](#).

“Now that the glassy-winged sharpshooter has been confirmed on these plants, preventing further spread is critical,” said Don McCoon, Alameda County’s Agricultural Commissioner. “We are working closely with Costco and our state and regional partners to identify affected plants and protect local agriculture and home gardens. Costco has been responsive and helpful throughout this situation and is not responsible for the discovery. Unfortunately, the issue occurred at the nursery supplier level.”

Officials emphasized these are grapevines intended for planting in home gardens and landscaping, not grapes sold for consumption.

Residents of Alameda County who purchased grape plants at Costco should:

- Place two garbage bags over the plant and secure them tightly.
- Do not attempt to return, transport or relocate the plant.
- Do not place the plant in the trash or compost bin.
- Contact the Alameda County Department of Agriculture at 510-670-5232 or email alameda.ag@acgov.org to schedule an inspection.

Native to the southeastern United States and Mexico, the glassy-winged sharpshooter was first detected in California in the 1990s and has since become established in portions of central and southern California. The glassy-winged sharpshooter poses a significant threat to California’s grape industry and is also known to damage ornamental landscapes by feeding on 250 plant varieties.

Agricultural officials are urging residents to contact their local agriculture department if they purchased the grape plants in question, to prevent the glassy-winged sharpshooter’s spread into the Bay Area. Additional information about GWSS and Pierce’s disease can be found at the following link: <https://www.cdafa.ca.gov/pdcp/>

