

Agriculture and wine producers agree to strengthen phytosanitary actions in Valle de Guadalupe

In the last year, technicians from the National Service for Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) have contained the vine mealybug through sampling and biological control in affected vineyards



With the purpose of advancing in the control and eradication of the main pests and diseases of the vine in Valle de Guadalupe, Baja California and, with this, enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the region's wine, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and producers agreed to strengthen technical training and install a quarantine station for propagative material that enters the entity, to certify the health of new plantations.

Within the framework of the work of the 43rd World Congress of Vine and Wine that takes place in Ensenada, representatives of the National Service for Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) and the National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP) pointed out that, thanks to the coordinated work with the industry, during the last year progress has been reported in the fight against the vine mealybug (PHV) in the region's vineyards.

The chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, pointed out that the agency currently operates the Work Plan for the Management of PHV in Baja California, which consists of randomly sampling 75 plants for every 10 hectares and placing traps with pheromones to males, which allows timely detection of the insect.

In the places where the plague is detected, plant health technicians and producers apply different phytosanitary techniques, including a biological control measure; that is, releasing natural enemies of the insect such as *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, *Chrysoperla carnea* Stephens and *Anagyrus vladimiri* Triapitsyn.

The federal official assured that the measures that were adopted more than a year ago have been effective, since the containment of the PHV has been achieved, however, he said, to eradicate it, it is necessary to sensitize all the producers to apply phytosanitary actions throughout Valle de Guadalupe and eliminate sources of infestation that could affect vineyards free of the plague.

Trujillo Arriaga stressed that, as in other production lines, the active participation of farmers is essential to improve sanitary conditions, since they are the ones who are in permanent contact with their crops and can detect, notify and control the first outbreaks.

He announced that once the PHV is in the process of being eradicated, the next step will be to implement a strategy for Pierce's disease, whose main objective will be to detect the insect vectors of the pathogen that causes it, commonly called leafhoppers.

He specified that the presence of the main transmitter of the disease, the glassy-winged sharpshooter, has not been reported in the state; however, it is necessary to strengthen preventive tasks in the production units.

On behalf of the wine growers, Fernando Pérez Castro, from Finca La Carrodilla, pointed out that next month the industry will organize a meeting with most of the state's wine representation and the national health authority, to establish the regulations that must follow short, medium and long term.

He indicated that the phytosanitary actions will provide certainty to commercial partners, since it is expected that, in the next five years, the plantation surfaces will go from around two thousand hectares to almost six thousand in Valle de Guadalupe.

At the event, it was reported that the national production of wine in the last decade has remained around 400 thousand hectoliters, a figure that positions the country as the twenty-third largest producer in the world.