
APHIS will accept stakeholder comments on this document through **November 10, 2017**.
Please email your comments to PPQ.Citrus.Health@aphis.usda.gov

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

(September 23, 2017)

**INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF CITRUS NURSERY STOCK FROM AREAS
QUARANTINED FOR CITRUS CANCKER, CITRUS GREENING, AND/OR ASIAN CITRUS
PSYLLID**

Citrus nursery stock intended for interstate movement from areas quarantined for Citrus Canker (CC), Citrus Greening (CG), or Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) can only be moved in accordance with:

1. regulations contained in:
 - a. 7 CFR §301;
 - b. all applicable Federal Orders ;
 - c. all applicable State laws, **and**;
 - d. all requirements outlined in this protocol.

This protocol provides conditions for the interstate movement of citrus nursery stock from quarantined areas, including provisions for unrestricted movement under certificate from areas quarantined for CC, CG, and ACP, and provisions for restricted movement from areas quarantined for CC, ACP and CG.

All other interstate movement of citrus nursery stock from areas quarantined for Citrus Canker (CC), Citrus Greening (CG), or Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is prohibited.

I. General Requirements For Interstate Movement From Areas Quarantined For CC, CG, and/or ACP:

- A. All general requirements in this protocol apply except where specifically exempted.
 - a. The interstate movement of citrus nursery stock under certificate to all areas of the United States from CC, CG, and ACP quarantine areas, must follow Sections II, III, or IV respectively.
 - b. Sections V and VI provide for limited interstate movement. Movement to commercial citrus producing states is prohibited under these sections.
- B. If an area is quarantined for more than one of the indicated pests, the more stringent of the requirements in Sections II, III, or IV will apply.
- C. Compliance Agreements and Certificates.
 1. Any person engaged in growing, processing, handling, or moving citrus nursery stock in an area quarantined for CC, CG, or ACP must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS if he or she wishes to move citrus nursery stock interstate.
 2. Citrus nursery stock may only be shipped interstate to all U.S. States if accompanied by a certificate issued by an inspector verifying that all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements stipulated in the compliance agreement have been met. A copy of the certificate must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill.

3. A certificate or compliance agreement that has been issued may be withdrawn, either orally or in writing, by an inspector if he or she determines that the holder of the certificate or compliance agreement has not complied with all conditions in this protocol. If the withdrawal is oral, the withdrawal and the reasons for the withdrawal will be confirmed in writing as promptly as circumstances allow. Any person whose certificate or compliance agreement has been withdrawn may appeal the decision in writing to the Administrator within 10 days after receiving the written notification of the withdrawal. The appeal must state all of the facts and reasons upon which the person relies to show that the certificate or compliance agreement was wrongfully cancelled. The Administrator must grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for the decision, as promptly as circumstances allow. If there is a conflict as to any material fact, a hearing will be held to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing will be adopted by the Administrator.
- D. APHIS Approved Structure.
1. Except as noted in Sections II and V, all citrus nursery stock for interstate shipment must be produced in an APHIS approved structure as described below (hereafter referred to as “approved structure”).
 2. Based on a systems approach as recommended by Risk Management Assessment (RMA), the approved structure must be designed and constructed to exclude quarantine pests and diseases. The owner of the approved structure is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the approved structure and ensuring it remains pest-free. APHIS must be notified immediately if any breaches are detected. Each approved structure must have a minimum buffer area to permit reasonable access for inspection and equipment. Entryways must be designed and constructed to exclude pests. All approved structure emergency exit doors must be marked ‘Emergency Exit Only’ and not used as an entrance. Design may include, but not be limited to screening with openings approximately 0.3 square millimeters (e.g. 0.547 x 0.547, or 0.5 x 0.6) or less in size, forced air curtains, and double door positive air pressure compartments. Exterior screenhouse air sources utilized to create positive pressure must be covered with approximately 0.3 square millimeter (or less) screening to exclude pests.
- E. Source material for interstate movement from APHIS approved structures. If commingled and a pest covered by this protocol is found, the more stringent of the regulatory requirements in Sections II, III, or IV will apply.
1. Mother/scion trees - Budwood or tissue culture material used to propagate trees for use as a mother/scion tree shall originate from foundation trees from a certified clean stock program. Each foundation tree shall be propagated with budwood or tissue culture that has originated from a source that has undergone inspection, testing, and therapy (e.g. shoot tip grafting, cryotherapy, etc.), and has been found negative for pests of quarantine significance.
 2. Increase trees –Material used to propagate trees for use as an increase tree shall originate from foundation trees or mother/scion trees from a certified clean stock program.
 3. Production trees –Material used to propagate trees for use as a production tree shall originate from foundation trees or mother/scion trees or increase trees from a certified clean stock program.
 4. Seed Source tree – Shall originate from a certified clean stock program.
 5. Seeds - Shall originate from a state certified seed source tree.
- F. Sampling for testing must be done according to the *Survey Protocol in Exclusionary Facilities for the Interstate Movement of Citrus and Other Rutaceous Plants for Planting from Areas Quarantined for Citrus Greening, Asian Citrus Psyllid, and Citrus Canker.*
- G. Citrus nursery stock material subject to this protocol may be moved between approved structures within a contiguous quarantine area provided safeguards are in place.
- H. Safeguarding and Sanitation.
1. All approved structures, containers, or conveyances where citrus nursery stock eligible for interstate movement under this protocol is grown, stored, or shipped, must be inspected by an inspector and

found free of all extraneous plant material and must be cleaned, and/or treated to ensure freedom from pests and diseases prior to the entry of nursery stock eligible for interstate movement or other clean plant material.

2. Citrus nursery stock eligible for interstate movement under certificate in accordance with this protocol may not enter or be grown, stored, or shipped in the same structure, container, or conveyance as other citrus nursery stock that does not meet the requirements of this protocol or citrus nursery stock from ACP or CG quarantined areas eligible for interstate movement in accordance with Section V or Section VI of this protocol. If citrus nursery stock eligible for interstate movement enters, is grown, stored, or shipped in the same structure, containers, or conveyance as other citrus nursery stock or is otherwise commingled with or exposed to such citrus nursery stock, all plants are prohibited interstate shipment.
 3. Vehicles and other equipment entering approved structures must be free of all extraneous plant material and soil and cleaned to ensure that the approved structure remains free of pests.
 4. The approved structure in which citrus nursery stock is produced for interstate movement must have procedures in place to protect the material from the introduction of pests while loading takes place. One or more safeguards can be used. Please consult your local authorized inspector.
 5. When removing citrus nursery stock for interstate movement, the plants must be loaded into a solid-sided, sealable shipping container or conveyance in a manner that is designed to exclude the entry of pests.
- I. Labeling. Citrus nursery stock plant being moved interstate must be labeled with adequate identifying information to permit trace-back to each premise on which the plants were grown.
 - J. Recordkeeping. Inspection, treatment, and shipment records from all approved structures must be maintained for at least 3 years from the date the nursery stock is shipped interstate. The facility must provide the records to APHIS upon request.
 - K. Access by Inspectors. The facility must allow inspectors reasonable access to the approved structure to ensure compliance with this protocol.

II. Requirements For Interstate Movement From Citrus Canker (CC) Quarantined Areas To All U.S. States:

- A. Structure. Citrus nursery stock must be grown in an approved structure that meets the requirements of Section I. D. of this protocol. Additionally, the approved structure must be designed and constructed to exclude citrus canker and be resistant to wind-blown rain. Each approved structure must have an at least 100 foot citrus free buffer area around the exterior of the approved structure. If 100 feet is not feasible, a minimum buffer area of 25 feet is allowed if the side of the greenhouse facing citrus nursery plant material is constructed with a water-proof wall, or double-walled screening with a minimum of a 4-inch space between each screen. Interior walls may be constructed of a single-wall approved screening with a minimum buffer area of 5 feet between screening and citrus nursery stock.
- B. Sanitation.
 1. Prior to entering the approved structure where citrus nursery stock is grown for interstate movement, personnel must disinfect hands and arms and spray clothing and footwear with a product approved by APHIS to be effective against citrus canker.
 2. Vehicles, equipment, and other articles used to handle or move citrus nursery stock must be treated in accordance with Title 7, *Code of Federal Regulations*, part 305 and the PPQ treatment manual, upon entering all approved structures.
- C. Visual Inspection, Testing, and Detection.
 1. Production plants for interstate movement in the approved structure must be visually inspected for symptoms of citrus canker by an inspector. The interval between inspections must not exceed 30 calendar days. A perimeter buffer allowing unabated access to all material in the structure must be maintained at all times.
 2. Mother/scion, seedlings and increase trees must be visually inspected for symptoms of citrus canker

- by an inspector. The interval between inspections must not exceed 30 calendar days.
3. If CC is detected in an approved structure:
 - a. APHIS must be notified immediately of the findings; and
 - b. plants showing symptoms of citrus canker must be tested using Work Instructions approved by APHIS; and
 - c. No plants are eligible for interstate movement until the test results are returned.
 4. If CC is confirmed in any approved structure:
 - a. All plants from the affected structure(s) are ineligible for interstate movement; and
 - b. Affected structure(s) must undergo APHIS approved and verified treatment measures before plants eligible for interstate movement can be placed in the structure(s); and
 - c. APHIS will complete a risk assessment as needed.
- D. Eligibility for shipment. Citrus nursery stock must be subjected to at least 3 consecutive 30 day negative inspection cycles.
First inspection (1), then 30 day inspection (2) then 30 day inspection (3) for 60 days total.

III. Requirements For Interstate Movement From Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Quarantined Areas To All U.S. States:

- A. Structure. Citrus nursery stock must be grown in an approved structure that meets the requirements of Section I. D. of this protocol.
- B. Visual Inspection, Trapping, and Detection.
 1. Visual Inspection: Plants in the approved structure(s) must be visually inspected by inspectors for the presence of ACP using methods approved by APHIS and stipulated in the compliance agreement. The interval between inspections must not exceed 30 calendar days.
 2. Inspection methods may include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Yellow sticky panels
 - b. Vacuum suction of plants
 - c. Tapping of plants
 - d. Other methods approved by APHIS
 3. If ACP is detected in an approved structure:
 - a. APHIS must be notified immediately of the findings; and
 - b. No plants are eligible for interstate movement until an official identification is completed.
 4. If ACP is confirmed in any approved structure:
 - a. All plants from the affected structure(s) are ineligible for interstate movement; and
 - b. Affected structure(s) and contents must undergo APHIS approved and verified mitigation measures before plants eligible for interstate movement can be placed in the structure(s); and
 - c. APHIS will complete a risk assessment as needed.
- C. Treatment For Shipment
 1. All citrus nursery stock must be treated with an APHIS-approved systemic insecticide (soil drench) at least 30 days but no more than 3 months (90 days) before shipment. This must be followed by an APHIS-approved foliar spray no more than 10 days before shipment. Treatment must be with an APHIS- and EPA-approved product labeled for use in nurseries. Persons applying treatments must follow the product label, its applicable directions, and all restrictions and precautions, including statements pertaining to Worker Protection Standards.
 2. Treatments must be verified by APHIS or State personnel.
- D. Eligibility for Shipment. Citrus nursery stock for interstate movement must be subjected to at least 3 consecutive 30 day negative inspection cycles.
First inspection (1), then 30 day inspection (2) then 30 day inspection (3) for 60 days total.

IV. Requirements For Interstate Movement From Citrus Greening (CG) Quarantined Areas To All U.S. States:

- A. Structure. Citrus nursery stock must be grown in an approved structure that meets the requirements of Section I. D. of this protocol.
- B. Visual Inspection, Tissue Testing, and Detection.
1. Visual Inspection: Plants in the approved structure(s) must be visually inspected by inspectors for the presence of ACP and CG using methods approved by APHIS and stipulated in the compliance agreement. The interval between inspections must not exceed 30 calendar days. Additional inspection methods for ACP may include, but not be limited to, yellow stick panels, vacuum suction of plants, tapping of plants, or other methods approved by APHIS.
 2. Tissue testing: Testing for CG must be conducted by a diagnostician certified by APHIS at a laboratory accredited by APHIS using the APHIS Work Instructions. Plants are not eligible for interstate movement until negative test results are returned.
 - a. Mother/scion trees: Each mother plant will be tested once per calendar year at an interval no less than 11 months.
 - b. Increase trees: Increase trees must be tested every 6 months. Citrus nursery stock may not leave the increase house prior to testing.
 - c. Production trees: If production trees are sold prior to 12 months, testing is not required. Production trees that are held in approved structure(s) for longer than 12 months must be tested at 12 months and every 6 months thereafter.
 3. If ACP is detected in an approved structure:
 - a. APHIS must be notified immediately of the findings; and
 - b. No plants are eligible for interstate movement until an official identification is completed.
 4. If ACP is confirmed in an approved structure:
 - a. All plants from the affected structure(s) are ineligible for interstate movement; and
 - b. Affected structure(s) and contents must undergo APHIS approved and verified mitigation measures before plants eligible for interstate movement can be placed in the structure(s); and
 - c. APHIS will complete a risk assessment as needed.
 5. If CG is detected in an approved structure:
 - a. APHIS must be notified immediately of the findings; and
 - b. All plants from the affected structure(s) will be prohibited from interstate movement pending confirmation
 6. If CG is confirmed in an approved structure:
 - a. All plants from the affected structure(s) are ineligible for interstate movement; and
 - b. Affected structure(s) must undergo APHIS approved treatment measures before plants eligible for interstate movement can be placed in the structure(s); and
 - c. APHIS will complete a risk assessment as needed.

V. Restricted interstate movement of citrus nursery stock not grown in an APHIS approved structure to non-citrus producing states from ACP quarantined areas.

- A. Citrus nursery stock moved interstate under the provisions of this section may only be moved to non-citrus producing States in accordance with the requirements below.
1. The area must not be under quarantine for citrus greening.
 2. Citrus nursery stock may be moved in accordance with the requirements below:
 - a. All citrus nursery stock must be treated with an APHIS-approved systemic insecticide (soil drench) at least 30 days but no more than 3 months (90 days) before shipment. This must be followed by an APHIS-approved foliar spray no more than 10 days before shipment. Treatments must be verified by APHIS or State personnel. Treatment must be with an APHIS- and EPA-approved product labeled for use in nurseries. Persons applying treatments must follow the product label, its applicable directions, and all restrictions and precautions, including statements pertaining to Worker Protection Standards.
 - b. All citrus nursery stock must be visually inspected by inspectors for the presence of ACP at the

- time of shipment. Any finding of ACP must be reported to APHIS immediately.
- c. Citrus nursery stock being moved interstate must be labeled with adequate identifying information to permit trace-back to each premises on which the plants were grown.
 - d. Inspection, treatment, and shipment records must be maintained for at least 3 years from the date the nursery stock is shipped interstate. The facility must provide the records to APHIS upon request.
 - e. Any person engaged in growing, processing, handling, or moving citrus nursery stock in an area quarantined for ACP must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS if he or she wishes to move citrus nursery stock interstate.
 - f. Citrus nursery stock may only be shipped interstate in accordance with this section if accompanied by a limited permit issued by an inspector verifying that all conditions of this protocol and any additional requirements stipulated in the compliance agreement have been met. A copy of the limited permit must be attached to the consignee's copy of the accompanying waybill.
- B. Citrus nursery stock from an ACP-quarantined area as outlined in this section of the protocol (Sec. V) may be moved to another ACP-quarantined area if all of the requirements in Sections V. A. are met.
 - C. Citrus nursery stock from an ACP-quarantined area as outlined in this section of the protocol (Section V) may transit through a commercial citrus-producing State under the following conditions:
 1. Nursery stock must meet all of the requirements in Section V. A.;
 2. Nursery stock must be inspected by an inspector at the time of loading, and if one or more live ACP are detected, interstate shipment shall be prohibited;
 3. Adequate safeguarding measures must be arranged by the shipper and approved by an inspector to ensure that each conveyance is sealed with an agricultural seal applied by an inspector at origin and removed at destination by an inspector; and
 4. Seals must remain intact from origin to destination ensuring that the conveyance is not opened until it reaches the destination identified on the limited permit.

VI. Restricted interstate movement of citrus nursery stock not originating from foundation material to non-citrus producing states from CC, CG, and ACP quarantined areas.

- A. **Structure:** Citrus nursery stock must be grown in an approved structure that meets the requirements of Section I.D of this protocol.
- B. Citrus nursery stock for interstate movement that does not meet requirements of Section 1.E must only be moved to non-citrus producing States under a limited permit.
- C. All other applicable requirements of this protocol apply, including requirements related to movement of citrus nursery stock from quarantine areas for CC, CG and ACP.
- D. In addition, the requirements below must be met:
 1. Citrus nursery stock under this section cannot be moved to APHIS approved structures that are covered under other sections of this protocol.
 2. Citrus Canker (CC) Quarantined Areas: All conditions of section II apply.
 3. ACP and CG Quarantined Areas:
 - a. Visual Inspection, Tissue Testing, and Detection for ACP and CG.
 - i. Visual Inspection: Plants in the approved structure(s) must be visually inspected by inspectors for the presence of ACP using methods approved by APHIS and stipulated in the compliance agreement. The interval between inspections must not exceed 30 calendar days. Any finding of ACP or CG must be reported to APHIS immediately. Additional detection methods for ACP may include, but not be limited to, yellow stick panels, vacuum suction of plants, tapping of plants, or other methods approved by APHIS.
 - ii. Tissue Testing: Tissue testing for CG must be conducted by a diagnostician certified by APHIS at a laboratory accredited by APHIS using the APHIS CG Work Instructions. Plants must be held in approved structure(s) until the test results are returned.

- a. Mother/scion trees: Each mother plant will be tested once per calendar year at an interval no less than 11 months.
 - b. Increase trees: Increase trees must be tested every 6 months. Citrus nursery stock may not leave the increase house prior to testing.
 - c. Production trees: If production trees are sold prior to 12 months, testing is not required. Production trees that are held in approved structure(s) for longer than 12 months must be tested at 12 months and every 6 months thereafter.
- iii. Detection: IF ACP or CG is detected in an approved structure:
 - a. APHIS must be notified immediately of the findings; and
 - b. All plants from the affected structure(s) will be prohibited from interstate movement pending confirmation
 - iv. If ACP or CG is confirmed in any approved structure:
 - a. All plants are ineligible for interstate movement; and
 - b. Affected structure(s) must undergo APHIS approved treatment measures before plants eligible for interstate movement can be placed in the structure(s); and
 - c. APHIS will complete a risk assessment as needed.

Definitions

Note: The definitions apply to the entire protocol document.

APHIS Approved Structure. A screenhouse, greenhouse, or other enclosure that is approved to grow citrus that is eligible to ship interstate.

Breach. Any circumstance that would allow free access by federally-regulated pests into a structure, container, package or means of conveyance.

Citrus Nursery Stock. Any live rutaceous plant or plant part, except seed, used to produce plants for planting including budwood, foundation grove trees, scion grove trees, increase block trees, nursery production block trees, tissue culture, seed source trees, top-working material, and cuttings/air layerings.

Commercial Citrus Producing States. American Samoa, Arizona, California, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Texas, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Inspector. An employee of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or other individual authorized by the Administrator of APHIS to enforce the provisions of this protocol, e.g. a State Department of Agriculture official.

Interstate. From any State into or through any other State.

Limited Permit. A document in which an inspector affirms that the regulated article not eligible for a certificate is eligible for interstate movement only to a specified destination and in accordance with conditions specified on the permit.

State. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any State, territory, or possession of the United States.

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