

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2010-23
June 4, 2010

SUBJECT: Confirmation of *Guignardia citricarpa*, the Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot (CBS) in Hendry County, Florida

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On May 21, 2010, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), confirmed the identification of *G. citricarpa*, causal agent of CBS, on citrus fruit from Hendry county, Florida. Previously, CBS was only detected in a commercial Valencia orange grove in Collier County, Florida.

As a result of APHIS' and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Department of Plant Industry (DPI) delimiting surveys, the infected fruit was collected from a commercial Valencia orange grove that produces fruit for juicing. The tree from which the sample was collected is located 14-miles from the original positive grove that was found in Collier County. Using multi-pest surveys conducted by FDACS/DPI, as part of the routine Federal Citrus Health Response Program, CBS has not been detected in other parts of Florida.

An Emergency Action Notification has been issued to the Hendry County grove owner requiring that harvested citrus fruit be shipped to local processing facilities under tarpaulin or within closed vehicles to prevent spread of CBS. A compliance agreement has been issued to ensure appropriate cleaning of the conveyance and approved procedures for the disposal of debris. No fruit from the affected grove was shipped out of Florida.

APHIS and FDACS/DPI continue to delimit areas where CBS is present to determine the extent of the infestation and are implementing the necessary phytosanitary safeguards to prevent the spread of CBS in Collier and Hendry Counties. For additional information regarding this program, please contact Patrick Gomes, National Coordinator, Citrus Health Response Program, at (919) 855-7313.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

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