

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2012-02
January 18, 2012

SUBJECT: APHIS Confirms Citrus Greening (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*) in Texas

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On January 13, 2012, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the presence of citrus greening, also referred to as Huanglongbing, in plant tissue samples collected from a sweet orange tree located in a commercial citrus grove in the San Juan area of Hidalgo County, Texas. The sample was collected from a symptomatic tree during ongoing citrus surveys conducted as part of the cooperative Citrus Health Response Program. Since 2009, APHIS has regulated the entire State of Texas for the Asian citrus psyllid, the insect vector responsible for transmitting citrus greening.

APHIS, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the Texas citrus industry, is responding to this find with additional surveys, control, and regulatory activities.

Effective January 13, 2012, TDA enacted a temporary emergency quarantine in the 5-mile radius around the detection site in an effort to prevent the artificial spread of citrus greening. This emergency quarantine will expire on January 20, 2012. At that time, TDA intends to establish a revised intrastate quarantine with an appropriate scope based upon updated information. After the intrastate quarantine is established, APHIS is prepared to enact a parallel interstate quarantine.

APHIS will publish a description of citrus greening quarantine areas in Texas at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml

For additional information regarding this program, you may contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, APHIS National Program Manager, at Area Code (301) 734-7228 or Phillip Mason, APHIS Regional Program Manager, at Area Code (970) 494-7565.

/s/ Osama El-Lissy /for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine