

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2013-50  
November 22, 2013

Subject: APHIS Confirms Citrus Greening (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*) in Mission, Texas

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

On September 20, 2013, 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 grapefruit tree located on a residential property in Mission, Texas. The sample was collected during citrus surveys conducted as part of the cooperative Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP). Samples have been collected from adjacent trees and have been submitted for analysis.

In response to this detection, APHIS—in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the Texas citrus industry—is conducting delimiting surveys in the Mission area. In addition, on September 24, 2013, TDA enacted a 5-mile radius quarantine around the detection site to prevent the artificial spread of citrus greening. When delimiting surveys are completed, APHIS will establish an interstate quarantine. Since 2009, APHIS has regulated all of Texas for the Asian citrus psyllid, the insect that transmits citrus greening.

For additional information, you may call CHRP National Coordinator Prakash Hebbar at 301-851-2228 or National Policy Manager for Citrus Disease Programs Lynn Evans-Goldner at 301-851-2286.

/s/

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