

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-61
September 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Establishment of Asian Citrus Psyllid Quarantine Areas in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and the Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Texas

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a revised Federal Order that establishes Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine areas in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and expands the ACP quarantine area in Texas. This action is necessary to prevent the interstate spread of ACP.

As a result of ongoing surveys conducted by APHIS in cooperation with respective State departments of agriculture, detections of ACP in the following States have been confirmed since August 6, 2008:

Alabama: Baldwin County.

Georgia: Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty, and McIntosh Counties.

Mississippi: Hancock County

South Carolina: Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton Counties.

In addition, the presence of ACP has been confirmed in Brazos, Fort Bend, and Jefferson Counties in Texas. Since ACP had previously been confirmed in 32 counties in Texas, and a quarantine area had been established in the State, these new detections will result in an expansion of the quarantine area to include these three additional counties.

The attached Federal Order updates the previous version issued on August 5, 2008, with respect to the areas now regulated for ACP, by adding Baldwin County Alabama, the entire State of Georgia, Hancock County Mississippi, Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton Counties in South Carolina, and Brazos, Ft. Bend, and Jefferson Counties in Texas. Although ACP has only been found in five counties in Georgia, the State has elected not to establish parallel quarantine areas and thus the entire State will be listed as a quarantined area. In Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina, the States have informed APHIS that they were in the process of establishing parallel quarantine areas and thus only the counties in which ACP has been confirmed will be added to the list of ACP-quarantined areas. In Texas, the State has published an emergency rule, which adds the three new counties to the State ACP quarantine. Texas will also adopt this emergency rule on a permanent basis.

Wherever ACP's are found, following confirmation of the identity of the insects they are tested to determine if they are infected with citrus greening (CG). In addition, leaf samples are also being gathered and tested for possible presence of CG bacteria. In the case of all of the recent detections discussed in this document, no evidence of CG was found in either the psyllids or the leaf samples.

APHIS continues to work closely with in all of the affected States to delimit the presence ACP and to identify any CG infestations that may be present, while assessing what other measures need to be taken in response to these new finds. For additional information about this program, you may contact Patrick Gomes, National Coordinator, Citrus Health Response Program, at Area Code (919) 855-7313.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

**FEDERAL DOMESTIC QUARANTINE ORDER:
CITRUS GREENING DISEASE (CG)
and
ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID (ACP)
September 12, 2008**

The purpose and goal of this Federal Order is to prevent the spread of harmful citrus diseases and vectors, one is the citrus greening disease (CG) also known as Huanglongbing disease of citrus, caused by the bacterial pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* and the other is its vector the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama. This Federal Order is issued pursuant to Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States.

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that it is necessary, in order to prevent the destructive and harmful dissemination of CG and/or ACP, to establish restrictions on the interstate movement of CG host material from quarantined areas in Florida and Louisiana and ACP host material from quarantined areas in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam as described below in this Federal Order.

Citrus greening disease, a highly injurious disease of citrus, was first detected in the United States in Miami-Dade County, Florida in 2005, and currently has been confirmed in 30 counties in Florida. CG has only been confirmed in Orleans parish, Louisiana. ACP is both a vector for the CG disease, and a pest of citrus in its own right. ACP is currently present in Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and portions of Texas and Louisiana.

On September 16, 2005, APHIS issued a Federal Order to impose restrictions on the interstate movement of all CG host plant material and ACP host plant material from quarantined areas in Florida in order to prevent the artificial spread of CG and of ACP. APHIS subsequently updated the restrictions by issuing a revised Federal Order on May 3, 2006 (DA#2006-19, 5/3/06). On November 2, 2007, APHIS issued a third Federal Order (DA#2007-54) due to further expansions of CG in Florida detected during surveys in 2007. On January 11, 2008, APHIS issued a fourth Federal Order (DA#2008-02) which quarantined the entire State of Florida for CG and Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and portions of Texas for ACP. On June 24, 2008, APHIS issued a Federal Order (DA#2008-26) which quarantined Orleans parish for CG and Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Charles parishes for ACP.

APHIS released additional Federal Orders (DA#2008-31), (DA#2008-36), and (DA#2008-40) dated July 11, 2008, July 22, 2008, August 5, 2008 respectively, adding

Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Tammany, and St. James to the list of parishes quarantined for ACP in Louisiana.

During the first week of August 2008, APHIS confirmed Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. The ACP specimens were collected among residential citrus plants. We also recently detected ACP in additional counties in Texas. The new States and/or respective counties to be quarantined per this Federal order are listed below:

Alabama: Baldwin County

Georgia: The entire State.

Mississippi: Hancock County

South Carolina: Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton Counties

Texas: Brazos, Ft. Bend, and Jefferson Counties

Due to the presence of ACP in the State of Georgia and its determination that it will not establish a parallel intrastate quarantine, APHIS has quarantined the entire State of Georgia for ACP in order to prevent further dissemination of the pest.

Accordingly, the APHIS Administrator has expanded the latest Federal Order to prevent the further spread of CG and of ACP, namely the August 5, 2008 Federal Order, to include additional quarantined areas for ACP.

The eight previous Federal Orders and their plant pest disease control actions have been necessary due to the continuing spread of both CG and ACP. This Federal Order updates and replaces all previous versions of the Federal Order regarding domestic quarantines, treatment provisions, and designated restricted and regulated articles to prevent the dissemination of CG and ACP.

QUARANTINES and TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

This Federal Order imposes the following quarantines: (1) A quarantine of the entire State of Florida and Orleans parish in Louisiana for CG, (2) A quarantine of portions of the States of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina for ACP, and (3) Quarantines of the entire States of Florida, Hawaii, and Georgia, the entire Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for ACP.

The partial State quarantine of Texas and Louisiana for ACP is contingent upon the States adopting parallel intrastate quarantine to provide equivalent controls on the movement of restricted articles from quarantined counties to non-quarantined counties within the respective States. Texas adopted a parallel intrastate quarantine on November 30, 2007. Louisiana is taking steps to adopt a parallel intrastate quarantine which will become effective upon the signature of the State's Agricultural Commissioner.

I. QUARANTINE FOR CITRUS GREENING DISEASE (CG)

1. Quarantined Areas. The following areas are quarantined due to the presence of CG:

Florida: The entire State of Florida

Louisiana: The following parish: Orleans

2. Restricted Articles. The following articles are hosts of CG and are prohibited from being moved interstate from areas quarantined (the entire State of Florida and Orleans parish, Louisiana) due to the presence of CG:

The following are restricted articles:

(a) All plants and plant parts, including but not limited to nursery stock, cuttings, budwood, and propagative seed (but excluding fruit), of: Aeglopsis chevalieri, Balsamocitrus dawei, Bergera (=Murraya) koenigii, Calodendrum capense, X Citrocirus webberi, Citrus madurensis (= X Citrofortunella microcarpa), Citrus spp., Clausena indica, C. lansium, Fortunella spp., Limonia acidissima, Microcitrus australasica, Murraya spp., Poncirus trifoliata, Severinia buxifolia, Swinglea glutinosa, Triphasia trifolia, Vepris (=Toddalia) lanceolata.

(b) Any other product, article, or means of conveyance, if an inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading citrus greening, and after the inspector provides written notification to the person in possession of the product, article, or means of conveyance that it is subject to the restrictions of the regulations.

The APHIS Administrator may allow the interstate movement and exportation of restricted plants and/or nursery stock if it has been grown, produced, handled, treated, and transported in a manner that, in the judgment of the Administrator, prevents the restricted article from presenting a risk of spreading CG. The APHIS Administrator has determined that restricted plants and trees grown, produced, or maintained at a nursery or other facility located in a quarantined area that are not eligible for interstate movement under this Federal Order may be moved interstate but only for immediate exportation out of the United States. Accordingly, these restricted plants and trees from Florida or from Orleans parish Louisiana, must be moved directly to the port of export in accordance with the conditions of the limited permit, in a container sealed by APHIS. It should also be noted that regardless of any action that might be taken with regard to CG, many species that are restricted articles under this Federal Order are also regulated with regard to citrus canker under the Federal Citrus Canker Quarantine (7 CFR 301.75).

II. QUARANTINE FOR THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID (ACP)

1. Quarantined Areas. The following areas are quarantined due to the presence of the ACP:

Alabama: The following county: Baldwin.

Florida: The entire State of Florida.

Georgia: The entire State of Georgia.

Louisiana: The following parishes: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. James, St. Tammany, and Terrebonne.

Mississippi: The following county: Hancock.

South Carolina: The following counties: Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton.

Texas: The following counties:

Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Caldwell, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Ft. Bend, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Matagorda, Maverick, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Waller, Washington, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata counties.

Guam: All islands of the Territory of Guam.

Hawaii: All islands of the State of Hawaii.

Puerto Rico: The entire Commonwealth.

2. Regulated Articles The following are regulated articles based on the fact that they are plants or plant parts that are hosts of ACP. Regulated articles may only be moved interstate from areas quarantined due to the presence of the ACP in strict accordance with this Order:

The following are regulated articles: All plants, budwood, cuttings, or other fresh or live plant parts, except seed and fruit, of: Aegle marmelos, Aeglopsis chevalieri, Afraegle gabonensis, A. paniculata, Atalantia monophylla, Atalantia spp., Balsamocitrus dawaei, Bergera (=Murraya) koenigii, Calodendrum capense, X Citroncirus webberi, Citropsis articulata, Citropsis gilletiana, C. schweinfurthii, Citrus madurensis (= X Citrofortunella microcarpa), Citrus spp., Clausena anisum-olens, C. excavata, C. indica, C. lansium, Eremocitrus glauca, Eremocitrus hybrid, Fortunella spp., Limonia acidissima, Merrillia caloxylon, Microcitrus australasica, Microcitrus australis, M. papuana, X Microcitronella spp., Murraya spp., Naringi crenulata, Pamburus missionis, Poncirus trifoliata, Severinia buxifolia, Swinglea glutinosa, Tetradium ruticarpum, Toddalia asiatica, Triphasia trifolia, Vepris (=Toddalia) lanceolata, and Zanthoxylum fagara.

3. Requirements for Interstate Movement. In order to be eligible to move interstate from ACP quarantined areas, regulated articles must meet the following requirements:

A. Treatment. All regulated articles moving interstate from areas quarantined for the ACP must be treated with any approved treatment for ACP either listed in 7 CFR 305 or listed below in this Order¹ using an Environmental Protection Agency (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.

- i. Regulated articles not intended for consumption must be treated with a drench containing imidacloprid as the active ingredient within 30 days prior to shipping and also be treated with a foliar spray with a product containing either acetamiprid, chlorpyrifos, or fenpropathrin as the active ingredient within 10 days prior to movement.
- ii. Or, in the case of regulated articles intended for consumption or decorative use, such as fresh curry leaf (*Bergera (=Murraya) koenigii*), or mock orange (*Murraya paniculata*) leaves that are incorporated into leis or floral arrangements, this plant material must be treated prior to the interstate movement in accordance with APHIS treatment schedule T101-n-2 (methyl bromide fumigation treatment for external feeding insects on fresh herbs) at the times and rates specified in the treatment manual and safeguarded until export. This information can be found on page 5-2-28 of the treatment manual, located on line at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment_pdf/05_02_t100schedules.pdf; or
- iii. And, as an alternative to methyl bromide fumigation, these regulated articles described immediately above in ii originating from an area not quarantined for CG may be treated with irradiation in accordance with 7 CFR 305.

B. Fresh fruit. While fresh fruit is not a regulated article under this Federal Order, fruit being moved interstate from areas quarantined for ACP to citrus producing areas where ACP is not present (Alabama, American Samoa, Arizona, California, those portions of Louisiana not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, those portions of Texas not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, and the Virgin Islands of the United States) **must** be cleaned using normal packinghouse procedures. This means that fruit moved in bulk containers to these areas for repacking or processing can **not** come directly from groves, but must go through the normal cleaning process at a packinghouse before it is moved.

C. Inspection. All regulated articles that have been treated as provided above must be inspected by an inspector and found free of the ACP within 72 hours prior to shipping. Inspection of curry leaf that is treated with methyl bromide fumigation will not be required since the treatment is considered to be effective in killing all life stages of ACP that might be present.

¹ Irradiation may be used in accordance with 7 CFR 305 but may only be used if the regulated articles originate from an area not quarantined for CG.

D. Limited Permit. The regulated articles may not be moved to Alabama, American Samoa, Arizona, California, those portions of Louisiana not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, those portions of Texas not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, and the Virgin Islands of the United States, and must be accompanied by a limited permit issued by an authorized representative of the State, Territory, Commonwealth, or APHIS, or by a person operating under compliance agreement as specified below. The statement "Limited permit: Not for distribution in AL, AZ, CA, those portions of LA not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, those areas in TX not quarantined due to the presence of ACP, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands of the United States" must be displayed on a plastic or metal tag attached to each plant, or on the box or container if the plant is sealed in plastic, or in the case of plant parts (leaves, cuttings, etc.) on the box or other container in which plant material is packed. In addition, this statement must be displayed on the outside of any shipping containers used to transport these plants, and the limited permit must be attached to the bill of lading or other shipping document that accompanies the plants. This labeling may not be used on plants or products that do not meet the requirements of this Order.

Curry leaf (*Bergera* (= *Murraya*) *koenigii*) leaves intended for consumption, or other articles intended for decorative purposes that include such plant material as mock orange (*Murraya paniculata*) leaves that are incorporated into leis or floral arrangements, that have been fumigated using methyl bromide in accordance with T101-n-2 as specified in 3. A. iii. or treated with irradiation as described in 7 CFR 305 may be moved to any State or area. The boxes or containers in which the treated leaves are moved interstate must be marked to indicate where the leaves were produced and must also indicate that the leaves have been treated in accordance with APHIS requirements.

E. Compliance Agreements. Any person engaged in the business of growing or handling regulated articles for interstate movement may enter into a compliance agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to facilitate the interstate movement of regulated articles in accordance with all of the requirements of this Federal Order and this specific subpart, subject to monitoring and audits by the State, Territory, Commonwealth, or APHIS regulatory official. Such persons must agree to handle, pack, process, treat, and move regulated articles in accordance with this Federal Order; to use all permits and certificates in accordance with instructions; and to maintain and offer for inspection such records as may be required. Compliance agreements may be arranged by contacting a local office of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (listed in local telephone directories), or by contacting the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Domestic and Emergency Operations, 4700 River Road Unit 134, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1236.

Cancellation. Any compliance agreement may be cancelled orally or in writing by an inspector if the inspector finds that the person who entered into the compliance agreement has failed to comply with all of the requirements of this Federal Order and this specific subpart. If the person is given notice of cancellation orally, written confirmation

of the decision and the reasons for it must be provided as promptly as circumstances allow. Any person whose compliance agreement is cancelled may appeal the decision in writing to the APHIS Administrator within 10 days after receiving the written notification. The appeal must state all of the facts and reasons upon which the person relies to show that the 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.

4. Definitions

Inspector. Any person authorized by the Administrator of APHIS to enforce the requirements of this Order.