



# Asian Citrus Psyllid Biological Control Release Program

## Help USDA Protect Citrus

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) needs your help protecting American citrus from the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). ACP is a small invasive insect that feeds on citrus plants and can cause twisting of new leaves and damage to new shoots. More importantly, ACP can carry the bacterium that causes Huanglongbing (HLB) disease, also known as citrus greening. Citrus greening is one of the most serious citrus diseases and causes trees to produce smaller, bitter, and fewer fruit. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure, and it eventually dies from the disease. While citrus greening poses no threat to people or animals, it has destroyed millions of acres of citrus crops throughout the United States and abroad. Controlling the spread of ACP is key to stopping the spread of this disease.

USDA, in cooperation with our State partners, is releasing an insect called *Tamarixia radiata* to help reduce ACP populations and thus reduce the likelihood of citrus greening infection. *Tamarixia* is one of ACP's natural predators. The process of controlling an insect pest by introducing its natural enemy or predator is known as "biological control" and requires the support of producers, the agricultural industry, State and local agencies, and the public. You can show your support by participating in USDA's voluntary ACP biological control release program.

## About *Tamarixia*

*Tamarixia* is a small, parasitic insect about the size of a pinhead. Adult females target and lay their eggs on ACP nymphs, eventually killing them. *Tamarixia* adults also feed on ACP nymphs. *Tamarixia* only target ACP nymphs and do not threaten the environment or any other insect, plant, or animal.

## Biological Control in Your Neighborhood

USDA and our State partners currently release *Tamarixia* in Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas to protect America's citrus crops. The releases are done under a USDA permit.

USDA officials and our State partners are looking for *Tamarixia* release sites and may ask for your participation if your property meets certain criteria. We are looking for properties with citrus trees that:

1. Are watered and maintained regularly, and
2. Have not been treated with an insecticide in the last 3 months.

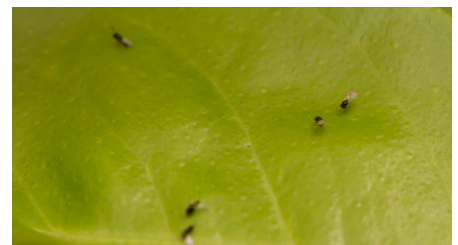
If your property meets the above criteria and you wish to volunteer, USDA would release *Tamarixia* on your property and evaluate the insect's effectiveness at reducing ACP. Volunteer homeowners should not treat their citrus trees with any insecticides.

## For More Information

For more information on releases in your State, please contact USDA at:



To learn more about citrus greening, ACP, and other citrus issues, please visit USDA's Citrus Health Response Program website at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/chrp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/chrp).



Photos top to bottom: Asian citrus psyllid (ACP); ACP nymphs and characteristic waxy droppings; *Tamarixia radiata*