

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2024-30

August 15, 2024

Subject: APHIS Modifies the Quarantine Requirements for Citrus Black Spot (*Phyllosticta citricarpa*), and Revises the Packinghouse Procedures for Citrus Fruit from Citrus Black Spot-Quarantined Areas

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is modifying the policies and requirements for the movement of regulated articles and providing a protocol to remove areas from the citrus black spot (CBS) quarantined area. This Federal Order supersedes DA-2012-09. This Federal Order also updates the "[APHIS-Approved Packinghouse Procedures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot \(CBS\)](#)" that is maintained on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#).

In 2010, APHIS confirmed the first identification of CBS in Collier and Hendry Counties in Florida. The disease is currently confined to portions of seven counties in Southwest Florida. In 2012, APHIS published Federal Order DA-2012-09, which established the conditions for the movement of regulated articles from CBS-quarantined areas. As established in DA-2022-07, leaves for consumption may be moved in accordance with the conditions listed in the "[Protocol for the Interstate Movement of Fresh, Mature Rutaceous Leaves for Consumption](#)," which can be found on the [APHIS citrus diseases webpage](#).

To prevent the spread of CBS outside the quarantined area, this Federal Order establishes requirements for the removal of leaves and other tree debris prior to the movement of vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles. Additionally, APHIS is adding a requirement that disinfection is required for trailers, field boxes, or bins used to transport leaves, stems, debris, culled fruit, or other regulated plant material intrastate to areas outside the quarantined area. This Federal Order also changes the tarping requirements for intrastate movement of citrus fruit to packinghouses and processing facilities. Fruit moving intrastate to packinghouse and processing facilities from CBS-positive groves or groves using the same equipment as CBS-positive groves must continue to be tarped. Fruit leaving certain non-positive groves within the CBS quarantine no longer requires tarping. These modifications protect the citrus industry by reducing the risk of human-assisted spread of the pathogen during intrastate movement. All other conditions for the movement of regulated articles from CBS-quarantined areas remain unchanged, including the requirement for producers, growers, packers, and processors to operate under a compliance agreement.

APHIS is also providing a protocol for the removal of areas quarantined for CBS, which can be found on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#). The protocol requires that the area proposed for removal from quarantine must be within a section of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) that is located entirely outside a one-mile radius of any CBS-positive trees, and that section must have at least three years of CBS-negative survey data from the time the positive tree that triggered the quarantine was removed. In addition, for groves where a positive tree was detected, documentation (verified by an inspector) or a signed affidavit must be provided that details 1) the removal of the

CBS-positive tree and adjacent trees, 2) the removal of tree debris within the area where the trees were removed at the time of tree removal, and 3) that all equipment leaving the CBS-positive area was free of leaves and other tree debris.

Finally, APHIS is also updating the [APHIS-approved packinghouse procedures for CBS](#). After a review of the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite treatments, APHIS is modifying the required pH range for the sodium hypochlorite solution from “6.0 to 7.5” to “5.5 to 7.0”. This change enhances the effectiveness of the treatment and aligns with the requirements listed in the APHIS Treatment Manual for citrus canker. If any further changes are made to the packinghouse procedures, the Administrator will notify state regulatory authorities that a change has occurred and describe the changes to the document.

The attached Federal Order includes the specific changes to the requirements for the interstate movement of regulated articles from CBS-quarantined areas. State agricultural authorities may prescribe additional safeguards and protocols.

A description of all current CBS-quarantined areas, Federal Orders, and other supporting regulatory documents may be found on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#).

For additional information you may contact:

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark L. Davidson', is positioned above the printed name and title of the Deputy Administrator.

Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:
Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

FEDERAL ORDER

Modified Quarantine Requirements for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot and Revised Packinghouse Procedures for Citrus Fruit

**DA-2024-30
August 15, 2024**

Effective immediately, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is modifying the policies and requirements for the movement of regulated articles from citrus black spot (CBS)-quarantined areas and providing criteria to remove areas from quarantine. This Federal Order supersedes DA-2012-09. This Federal Order also updates the "[APHIS-Approved Packinghouse Procedures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot](#)" that is maintained on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#).

This Federal Order is being issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act 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 the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

In 2010, APHIS confirmed the first identification of citrus black spot (CBS) in Collier and Hendry Counties in Florida. The disease is currently confined to portions of seven counties in Southwest Florida. In 2012, APHIS published Federal Order DA-2012-09, which established the conditions for the movement of regulated articles from CBS-quarantined areas. As established in DA-2022-07, leaves for consumption may be moved in accordance with the conditions listed in the "[Protocol for the Interstate Movement of Fresh, Mature Rutaceous Leaves for Consumption](#)," which can be found on the [APHIS citrus diseases webpage](#).

To prevent the spread of CBS outside the quarantined area, this Federal Order establishes requirements for the removal of leaves and other tree debris prior to the movement of vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles. Additionally, APHIS is adding a requirement that disinfection is required for trailers, field boxes, or bins used to transport leaves, stems, debris, culled fruit, or other regulated plant material intrastate to areas outside the quarantined area. This Federal Order also changes the tarping requirements for intrastate movement of citrus fruit to packinghouses and processing facilities. Fruit moving intrastate to packinghouse and processing facilities from CBS-positive groves or groves using the same equipment as CBS-positive groves must continue to be tarped. Fruit leaving certain non-positive groves within the CBS quarantine no longer require tarping. These modifications protect the citrus industry by reducing the risk of human-assisted spread of the pathogen during intrastate movement. All other conditions for the movement of regulated

articles from CBS-quarantined areas remain unchanged, including the requirement for producers, growers, packers, and processors to operate under a compliance agreement.

APHIS is also establishing a protocol for the removal of areas quarantined for CBS (“Protocol for Removing Areas from the Citrus Black Spot (CBS) Quarantine”) that can be found on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#). If any further changes are made to the protocol, the Administrator will notify state regulatory authorities that a change has occurred and describe the changes to the protocol.

Finally, APHIS is also updating the APHIS-approved packinghouse procedures for CBS. After a review of the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite treatments, APHIS is modifying the required pH range for the sodium hypochlorite solution from “6.0 to 7.5” to “5.5 to 7.0”. This change aligns with the requirements listed in the APHIS Treatment Manual for citrus canker. If any further changes are made to the APHIS-Approved Packinghouse Procedures, the Administrator will notify state regulatory authorities that a change has occurred and describe the changes to the document.

This Federal Order outlines the requirements for the movement of regulated articles from CBS-quarantined areas and includes the amendments described above. State agricultural authorities may prescribe additional safeguards and protocols. A description of all current CBS-quarantined areas, Federal Orders, APHIS-approved packinghouse procedures, and other supporting regulatory documents may be found at the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#).

For additional information regarding the CBS program, you may contact Abby Stilwell, National Policy Manager at (919) 323-6296 or by e-mail at abby.r.stilwell@usda.gov.

A. Quarantined areas:

A complete list of quarantined areas can be found on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#). The Administrator will designate quarantine areas according to the regulations in this section:

1. Designation of quarantined areas. The Administrator will list as a quarantined area each State, or each portion of a State, that is within one mile of a site where CBS has been confirmed by an inspector to be present, in which the Administrator has reason to believe that CBS is present, or that the Administrator considers necessary to regulate because of its inseparability for quarantine area enforcement purposes from localities in which CBS has been found. If there are additional finds of CBS after this Order is published, the Administrator will designate a State, or portion of a State area, as a quarantined area for CBS in accordance with the criteria listed below:
 - a. When the presence of CBS is confirmed within the area by an APHIS-administered test or by an APHIS-approved diagnostician using an APHIS-approved test.
 - b. If the Administrator considers it necessary to regulate the area because of its inseparability for phytosanitary enforcement purposes from localities in which CBS has been found.
2. Designation of an area less than an entire state as a quarantined area. Less than an entire State will be designated as a quarantined area only if the Administrator determines that:

- a. The State has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on the intrastate movement of the regulated articles that are substantially the same as those imposed by the Administrator on the interstate movement of regulated articles, except when regulated fruit moves intrastate from a quarantined area for fresh fruit packing or for processing into a product other than fresh fruit in accordance with this order; and
 - b. The designation of less than the entire State as a quarantined area will be sufficient to prevent the interstate spread of CBS.
3. Temporary designation of quarantined areas. The Administrator or an inspector may temporarily designate any non-quarantined area as a quarantined area. The Administrator will give a copy of this Order, along with a written notice for the temporary designation, to the owner or person in possession of the area to be established as a quarantined area. Thereafter, the interstate movement of any regulated article from an area temporarily designated as a quarantined area will be subject to this Order. When feasible, this area will be added to the list of quarantined areas, or the designation will be terminated by the Administrator or an inspector. The owner or person in possession of an area for which a quarantined area designation is terminated will be given notice of the termination as soon as possible.
4. Description of quarantined areas. The Administrator will publish a description of all areas regulated for citrus black spot on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#). After a change is made to the description of quarantined areas, the Administrator will notify state regulatory authorities that a change has occurred and describe the change to the quarantined areas. The description of each quarantined area will include the date the description was last updated and a description of any changes that have been made to the quarantined area. Lists of all quarantined areas may also be obtained by request from any local Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office; local offices are listed in telephone directories and on the [APHIS citrus diseases webpage](#).
5. Removal of areas from quarantine. The Administrator will remove areas from quarantine for CBS in accordance with the protocol published on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#). The protocol may also be obtained by request from any local PPQ office; local offices are listed in telephone directories and on the [APHIS citrus diseases webpage](#). If any further changes are made to the protocol, the Administrator will notify state regulatory officials that a change has occurred and describe the changes to the protocol.

B. Regulated Articles:

The following are regulated articles and may not be moved interstate from a quarantined area unless they are moved in accordance with this Order:

1. Fruit of *Citrus* spp.
2. All plants and plant parts, including but not limited to leaves for consumption, budwood, and nursery stock of *Citrus* spp.
3. Other articles intended for consumption, such as apparel or as a similar personal accessory, or items for decorative use made from *Citrus* spp.

4. Any other products, articles, or means of conveyance of any character whatsoever, when it is determined by an inspector that they present a hazard of spread of CBS and the person in possession thereof has been provided notice.

C. Conditions for the Movement of Regulated Articles:

1. Regulated fruit from the CBS-quarantined areas may move interstate to all States under the following conditions:
 - a. Fruit must be washed, brushed, disinfested, treated, and waxed at the packinghouse prior to shipment using an APHIS-approved packinghouse procedure as described in the [“APHIS-Approved Packinghouse Procedures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot \(CBS\).”](#) which is located on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#); and
 - b. Fruit must be practically¹ free of leaves, stems, or other regulated plant material, except that stems less than 1-inch may be attached to fruit but cannot have attached leaves; and
 - c. Fruit must be packed in a packinghouse operating under a signed compliance agreement with APHIS; and
 - d. Fruit must be accompanied by a certificate issued by an inspector or by persons operating under a compliance agreement; and
 - e. The certificate must be present on both the paperwork accompanying the shipment and on the containers in which the fruit is packed.
2. Regulated fruit from CBS-quarantined areas may move interstate from the packinghouse only to noncommercial citrus-producing areas under the following conditions:
 - a. Fruit must be washed, brushed, and disinfested at the packinghouse prior to shipment using an APHIS-approved packinghouse procedure in the [“APHIS-Approved Packinghouse Procedures for *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, Causal Agent of Citrus Black Spot \(CBS\)”](#), which are also located on the [APHIS citrus black spot webpage](#); and
 - b. Fruit must be practically¹ free of leaves, stems, or other regulated plant material; except that stems less than 1 inch may be attached to fruit but cannot have attached leaves; and
 - c. Fruit must be packed in a packinghouse operating under a signed compliance agreement with APHIS; and
 - d. Fruit must be accompanied by a limited permit issued by an inspector or by persons operating under a compliance agreement; and
 - e. The limited permit must be present on both the paperwork accompanying the shipment and on the containers in which the fruit is packed.
3. Regulated fruit from CBS-quarantined areas may move intrastate from within the quarantined area for packing, or for processing into a product other than fresh fruit, under the following conditions:
 - a. For fruit that is moved from a CBS-positive multi-block or from a multi-block that shares equipment with a CBS-positive multi-block, growers must operate under a compliance agreement that stipulates the following:

¹ Free, except for an occasional leaf or leaves, stems, or other regulated plant material attached to or associated with shipments of regulated fruit. No leaves, stems 1 inch or longer, or branches may be included in shipments for decorative or logistical purposes.

- i. Any fruit that is moved from within the areas described in 3.a. must be transported in vehicles that meet the following conditions:

 - (1) If the vehicle has solid wall construction on the sides and rear of the cargo area, the cargo area needs only to be covered with a tarpaulin, or otherwise covered on the open top, providing that openings around any tailgates or hinged doors do not exceed 1/2 inch;
 - (2) If the vehicle has side- and rear-wall construction of wire mesh screen or expanded metal less than or equal to 3/4 inch by 1-11/16 inch, it must have the open top of the cargo area covered; or
 - (3) If the vehicle has screen mesh openings greater than 3/4 inch by 1-11/16 inch, it must have the cargo area covered completely (to the bed of the vehicle). In addition, if mesh size is greater than 3/4 inch by 1-11/16 inch, all modifications made to reduce the mesh size must be done from within the cargo area (e.g., adding steel, fabric, or hardware cloth lining).
- ii. Vehicles transporting pallet boxes, field boxes, field bins, etc. must have the cargo area covered with a tarpaulin or otherwise covered in a manner that does not allow any openings greater than 1/2 inch exposing the fruit. In most cases, this cover will have to extend below the top portion of the bottom row of boxes. However, if the pallet boxes or field boxes are stacked in a solid wall with no openings of 1/2 inch or more on the side or back, only the open tops of the exposed boxes are required to be covered.
- iii. Covers or tarpaulins may be constructed of any fabric that has a weave of less than 1/2 inch. In addition, covers must be in good repair and securely fastened or tied down in a manner that will prevent the loss of fruit, leaves, or plant debris while in transit.
- iv. Vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles must be free from leaves and other tree debris prior to leaving the multi-block.
- v. Identity of each load of fruit must be maintained by issuing an individually numbered trip ticket containing the following information:

 - (1) Name of grove, landowner/agent, lessee, harvester; and
 - (2) License tag number; and
 - (3) Number of boxes contained in load (if not bulk); and
 - (4) Grove block that fruit originated in; and
 - (5) Processing plant or packinghouse to which fruit is destined; and
 - (6) Date of harvest.
- vi. After being emptied and cleaned of plant debris, trailers, field boxes, or bins must be disinfected using:

 - (1) A 200-ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0; or
 - (2) A 0.2-percent solution of a quaternary ammonium chloride (QAC) compound; or
 - (3) A solution containing 85 parts per million peroxyacetic acid (PAA) (indoor use only).
- b. For fruit that is moved from within the CBS-quarantined area from multi-blocks other than those described in section 3.a., growers must operate under a compliance agreement that stipulates the following:

- i. Vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles must be free from leaves and other plant debris prior to leaving the quarantined area.
 - ii. Identity of each load of fruit must be maintained by issuing an individually numbered trip ticket containing the following information:
 - (1) Name of grove, landowner/agent, lessee, harvester; and
 - (2) License tag number; and
 - (3) Number of boxes contained in load (if not bulk); and
 - (4) Grove block that fruit originated in; and
 - (5) Processing plant or packinghouse to which fruit is destined; and
 - (6) Date of harvest.
 - iii. After being emptied and cleaned of plant debris, trailers, field boxes or bins must be disinfected using:
 - (1) A 200-ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0; or
 - (2) A 0.2-percent solution of a quaternary ammonium chloride (QAC) compound; or
 - (3) A solution containing 85 parts per million peroxyacetic acid (PAA) (indoor use only).
 - c. Processors receiving whole fruit for juicing and packers receiving whole fruit for packing from the quarantined area must operate under a compliance agreement that stipulates the following:
 - i. After shipments are emptied at the processing plant or packinghouse, trailers, tarpaulins, field boxes, and field bins must be cleaned of all leaves and other plant debris; and
 - ii. All leaves and other plant debris resulting from such cleaning must be moved and handled according to Section 4, below; and
 - iii. After being emptied at the processing plant or packinghouse and cleaned of plant debris, trailers, field boxes or bins must be disinfected using:
 - (1) A 200-ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0; or
 - (2) A 0.2-percent solution of a QAC compound; or
 - (3) A solution containing 85 parts per million PAA (indoor use only).
4. Leaves, stems, debris, culled fruit, or other plant material of any regulated plant (not including propagative plant material) may move intrastate from within the quarantined area for disposal if the following conditions are met:
- a. For movement from a CBS-positive multi-block or from a multi-block that shares equipment with a CBS-positive multi-block, material must be moved under the following conditions:
 - i. The plant parts must be moved in an enclosed or covered vehicle cargo area. The cargo must be enclosed or covered in a manner to have no openings greater than 1/2 inch exposing the leaves, litter, or other plant material.
 - ii. When plant material comes directly in contact with the vehicle, the vehicle must be disinfected following movement.
 - iii. Culled fruit may only be moved intrastate for processing or destruction by one of the methods listed below in section 4.a.iv.
 - iv. All leaves and other plant debris cleaned from trailers, tarpaulins, field boxes, and field bins must be handled in one of the following methods subject to monitoring by an inspector:

- (1) Heat treated to at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of at least one hour; or
 - (2) Incinerated; or
 - (3) Buried at a landfill or other disposal site approved by APHIS or the State and covered with dirt at the end of every day that dumping occurs; or
 - (4) Fed to livestock as feed.
 - v. After being emptied and cleaned of plant debris, trailers, field boxes, or bins must be disinfected using:
 - (1) A 200-ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0; or
 - (2) A 0.2-percent solution of a QAC compound; or
 - (3) A solution containing 85 parts per million PAA (indoor use only).
 - vi. Vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles must be free from leaves and other plant debris prior to leaving the multi-block.
 - b. For movement from within the CBS-quarantined area from a multi-block other than those described in 4.a., material must be moved under the following conditions:
 - i. The plant parts must be moved in an enclosed or covered vehicle cargo area. The cargo must be enclosed or covered in a manner to have no openings greater than 1/2 inch exposing the leaves, litter, or other plant material.
 - ii. When plant material comes directly in contact with the vehicle, the vehicle must be disinfected following movement.
 - iii. Culled fruit may only be moved intrastate for processing or destruction by one of the methods listed below in Section 4.b.iv.
 - iv. All leaves and other plant debris cleaned from trailers, tarpaulins, field boxes, and field bins must be handled in one of the following methods subject to monitoring by an inspector:
 - (1) Heat treated to at least 180 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of at least one hour; or
 - (2) Incinerated; or
 - (3) Buried at a landfill or other disposal site approved by APHIS or the State and covered with dirt at the end of every day that dumping occurs; or
 - (4) Fed to livestock as feed.
 - v. After being emptied and cleaned of plant debris, trailers, field boxes, or bins must be disinfected using:
 - (1) A 200-ppm solution of sodium hypochlorite with a pH of 5.5 to 7.0; or
 - (2) A 0.2-percent solution of a QAC compound; or
 - (3) A solution containing 85 parts per million PAA (indoor use only).
 - vi. Vehicles and equipment used to harvest, transport, or that have come into contact with regulated articles must be free from leaves and other plant debris prior to leaving the quarantined area.
5. Citrus plants, including citrus nursery stock, may not be moved interstate from the CBS-quarantined area.
6. Rutaceous leaves for consumption may be moved interstate from the CBS-quarantined area by following the conditions listed in the “[Protocol for the Interstate Movement of Fresh](#),”

[Mature Rutaceous Leaves for Consumption.](#)” which can be found on the [APHIS citrus diseases webpage](#).

D. Definitions:

Certificate: A document, stamp, or other means of identification approved by APHIS and issued by an inspector or person operating under a compliance agreement when he or she finds that, because of certain conditions, a regulated article can be moved safely from a quarantined area.

Commercial citrus-producing areas: Jurisdictions that have commercial citrus-producing areas. The list of these areas is located in [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.75-5 Commercial citrus-producing areas](#).

Compliance agreement: A written agreement between APHIS or a State and a person engaged in growing, processing, handling, or moving regulated or associated articles, wherein the person agrees to comply with stipulations set forth in the agreement. The 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 the requirements of the agreement.

Inspector: Any employee of APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or any employee of a State, a County, or any other person specifically authorized by the APHIS Administrator to perform the specified duties.

Limited permit: A document issued by an inspector or person operating under a compliance agreement to allow the interstate movement of regulated articles to a specified destination, for specified handling, processing, or utilization.

Multi-block: A solid-set planting of citrus trees within a commercial citrus grove that is under one owner or manager, that is cultivated as a unit, and is generally of uniform age and variety.

Public Land Survey System (PLSS): The surveying method developed and used in the United States to plot, or divide, real property for sale and settling that divides land in the United States into townships, ranges, and sections.

Section: An approximately one-square-mile block of land as defined under the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).