

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2025-25

June 26, 2025

Subject: APHIS Establishes and Expands Quarantined Areas for Citrus Canker  
(*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*) in Texas

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), is establishing and expanding the quarantined areas for citrus canker in Texas to prevent the spread of the disease. APHIS is establishing one new quarantined area in the Harlingen Area of Cameron County, Texas, and expanding existing quarantined areas for citrus canker in the Rancho Viejo and Los Fresnos areas in Cameron County and the Pharr and Hidalgo areas of Hidalgo County, Texas. TDA has established intrastate quarantined areas for citrus canker that parallel the Federal citrus canker quarantine.

APHIS is taking this action because of citrus canker detections in plant tissue samples collected from residential properties in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Under the current citrus canker quarantine regulations, the interstate movement of citrus plants and plant parts, other than commercially packed and disinfected citrus fruit, remains prohibited. Citrus nursery stock that is moved in accordance with regulations contained in 7 CFR § 301.75-6 may move from areas quarantined for citrus canker.

The [APHIS Citrus Canker webpage](#) has information on this disease, and descriptions of current Federal citrus canker quarantined areas. APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

For additional information you may contact:

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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

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

**Federal Order**

**APHIS Establishes and Expands Quarantined Areas for Citrus Canker (*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*) in Texas**

DA-2025-25

June 26, 2025

Effective immediately, this Federal Order establishes one new quarantined area for citrus canker in Cameron County, Texas, and expands four existing citrus canker quarantined areas in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, Texas, to prevent the spread of citrus canker, which is caused by *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*.<sup>1</sup> This action is in response to detections of citrus canker during routine surveys in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that these areas in Texas meet the criteria in [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.75-4\(a\)](#) to be designated as quarantined areas.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, [7 U.S.C. § 7701 et seq. Section 412\(a\)](#) of the Plant Protection Act ([7 U.S.C. § 7712\(a\)](#)) 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. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 CFR § 301.75 et. seq.](#)

This Federal Order revises the quarantined areas for citrus canker in Texas and supersedes the citrus canker Federal Order DA-2024-13 issued on April 26, 2024. APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

**Addition of Quarantined Area**

To prevent the spread of citrus canker, the Administrator of APHIS finds it necessary to regulate portions of the Harlingen area of Cameron County. In addition, APHIS is expanding the quarantined areas in the Rancho Viejo and Los Fresnos areas of Cameron County, and the Pharr and Hidalgo areas of Hidalgo County. With these expansions, APHIS has merged the citrus canker quarantine boundaries in the Rancho Viejo/Los Fresnos quarantined area in Cameron County and the Pharr/Hidalgo quarantined area in Hidalgo County. The expansions covered by this Federal Order impact 28.7 square miles of quarantined areas in Cameron and Hidalgo counties, including 1.9 acres

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<sup>1</sup> Citrus canker is caused by *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*. The taxonomy of this pathogen has changed and includes the following designations (1) *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (Xac A, A\* and AW) with synonyms *X. citri* pv. *citri*, or *X. campestris* pv. *citri*, or *X. smithii* subsp. *citri* and (2) *X. axonopodis* pv. *aurantifolii* (Xac B & C) with a synonym *X. fuscans* subsp. *aurantifolii*

of commercial citrus. Accordingly, and effective immediately, all interstate movement of regulated articles from these areas must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated in the Plant Protection Act found at [7 CFR § 301.75](#) *et seq.*, and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

The establishment of these quarantined areas is reflected on the [APHIS Citrus Canker webpage](#), which also contains a description of all the current Federal citrus canker quarantined areas.

Section [7 CFR § 301.75-4\(a\)](#) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a citrus canker regulated area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined this to be the case using a series of criteria, which is applicable here. Note that [7 CFR § 301.75-4\(a\)\(2\)](#) requires that the state enforce an intrastate citrus canker quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal citrus canker regulations, which was confirmed by the State Plant Regulatory Official for Texas.

[7 CFR § 301.75-4\(b\)](#) enables the Administrator to designate new quarantined areas in accordance with [7 CFR 301.75-4\(a\)](#) upon providing written notice of this designation to the owner or persons in possession of the non-quarantined area. This new area will be added to the quarantine list on the APHIS Citrus Canker webpage. Written notice will again be provided if an area is removed from the list.

[7 CFR § 301.75-4\(c\)](#) provides for the removal of an area from the quarantine list pending sufficient evidence that demonstrates the area has been free from infestation for a period of two years from the initial detection. The list will be amended and the public informed of the amendment in accordance with the process noted in [7 CFR § 301.75-4\(a\)](#).

For additional information regarding the citrus canker program, you may contact:

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We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with state regulatory officials and the citrus industry in Texas in our ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of citrus canker.