

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2007-54  
November 02, 2007

SUBJECT: Expansion of the quarantines for citrus greening and Asian citrus psyllids

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Federal order today that expands the citrus greening (CG) and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantines in Florida and expands the number of States and Territories quarantined due to the presence of ACP. These actions are necessary to prevent the interstate spread of CG, also known as huanglongbing, which was first identified domestically in Florida in 2005, as well as to prevent interstate spread of ACP, which is the main vector of CG.

The CG quarantine in Florida affects 28 counties and restricts the movement of all live host plants and plant parts. APHIS may allow the interstate movement of restricted nursery stock if it is grown, produced, manufactured, stored, and handled in a way that prevents the risk of spreading CG. However, the science that could lead to standards allowing such movement from the CG-quarantined area is still being evaluated. In the meantime, nursery stock of host species produced in CG-quarantined counties can only be moved interstate for immediate export. A limited permit must accompany the nursery stock to confirm that the requirements have been met.

As a result of recent studies showing preliminary evidence that CG can be spread through infected seeds, APHIS is restricting the movement of citrus seed used for propagation. APHIS will continue to evaluate the latest science on this issue, including an evaluation of the risk associated with seed-bearing citrus fruit, and update our regulations accordingly. In the meantime, the interstate movement of citrus fruit from either the CG or ACP quarantine areas is not restricted by this Federal order. However, under Florida's citrus canker quarantine, fresh citrus fruit cannot be shipped to any citrus-producing States or Territories. Citrus fruit that is moved interstate from Florida must comply with Federal citrus canker regulations.

Previously only portions of Florida were quarantined due to the presence of the ACP, but under the expanded Federal order, the entire State of Florida along with Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and 32 Texas counties are now quarantined. Although the ACP is present in these areas, CG has not been found anywhere in the United States except in the 28 regulated counties in Florida. In order for ACP-host material to be shipped from ACP-quarantined areas that are not quarantined for CG, this material must be treated, inspected, and stamped with a limited permit to prevent distribution to any citrus-producing States or Territories where the ACP is not currently present. In addition, anyone engaged in the business of growing or handling citrus must enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS. Under the federal order, Florida must establish a parallel intrastate quarantine for CG and Texas must establish a parallel interstate quarantine for ACP, or APHIS will impose state-wide restrictions.

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The attached Federal order is effective immediately. Also attached is the Finding of No Significant Impact resulting from the Environmental Assessment associated with this Federal order.

For additional information about this Federal order, you may contact Stephen Poe, Senior Staff Officer, at (301) 734-8899.

*/s/ John Payne /for*

Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

2 Attachments