



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
1220 N Street, Room A-372
Sacramento, CA 95814

PEST EXCLUSION ADVISORY

No. 03-2008

DATE: February 1, 2008
TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners
FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
SUBJECT: Asian Citrus Psyllid Interception

On January 31, 2008, 10 boxes of treated and certified curry leaves from Hawaii were inspected and found infested with live insects by Los Angeles County inspectors. The Plant Pest Diagnostic Center has confirmed the presence of live male and female Asian Citrus Psyllids on the curry leaves. (Pest and Damage Record 1308175). The interception is a violation of the November 2, 2007 Federal Order for Asian Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Greening (available online at: http://nationalplantboard.org/docs/spro_citrus_2007_11_02.pdf).

As a result of this interception, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has notified the California State Plant Health Director's office (USDA) that, effective February 1, 2008, all shipments of curry leaves are prohibited entry into California under authority of Food and Agricultural Code Section 6461.5 until further notice.

This regulatory action is based on the fact that the shipment was properly treated, inspected, and certified, yet live Asian Citrus Psyllids were still intercepted. The efficacy of the treatment and certification process of curry leaves to meet the Federal Order for Asian Citrus Psyllid is in question, and until further investigation has taken place, there is reason to believe that treated and certified curry leaves may pose a pest risk to California.

Each of the 10 boxes was stamped on the outside with an official "Treated and Released" stamp, and a Certificate of Completion (fumigation) was also present. The certificate was issued on January 24, 2008 by Sandwich Isle Termite and Pest Control, Inc., Pearl City, Hawaii. The certificate indicated 150 boxes of curry leaves were treated. Since only 10 boxes of curry leaves were in this shipment, CDFA is currently working with USDA regulatory officials to determine the destination of the remaining 140 boxes of curry leaf from this fumigation.

Actions for County Inspectors

Effective immediately, all curry leaf shipments from Hawaii that **were in transit before February 1, 2008** must be held and inspected and may be released if found free of pests.

All curry leaf shipments that **were shipped on or after February 1, 2008** must be rejected upon arrival in California. Inspectors may inspect rejected shipments for pests, but it is not necessary. Rejected shipments must be properly destroyed through quarantine disposal.

Shipment Details

<i>Shipper:</i>	Victor Bhatti (Betel Garden) 758 Kapahulu Ave. Honolulu, HI	<i>Receiver:</i>	Hawaiian Produce Los Angeles County
<i>Carrier:</i>	Delta Air Logistics Airway Bill Number 006-6878 2475	<i>Date:</i>	1/30/08

For questions regarding this advisory, please contact Katie Filippini at (916) 654-0312 or by e-mail at kfilippini@cdfa.ca.gov