

12.15 The State of California implements its action plan for Asian Citrus Psyllid

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The very devastating effects of huanglongbing (HLB, a.k.a. citrus greening disease) are currently being observed in the major citrus producing areas of Brazil, China and Florida, USA with the attendant loss of millions of producing citrus trees and multiple millions of dollars of crop value. The State of California is one of the most important fresh fruit producers in the world, with over 85% of production located in the Central Valley. HLB-associated bacteria are not known to occur in California but recently the vector for HLB, the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama) (ACP) was first found in Tijuana, Mexico, then later in San Diego and Imperial Counties, California, which border Mexico. Since HLB would be devastating to the California citrus industry, the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture, in cooperation with the USDA and citrus industry, including related regulatory agencies, have developed and is implementing an action plan to detect and eradicate the ACP. The goal is to prevent the entry of HLB and confine the ACP to the most southern portion of the state thereby protecting the bulk of the state's citrus industry.