

### Save Your Community's Citrus

Asian Citrus Psyllid & Huanglongbing





Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program

## The Issue

- The Asian citrus psyllid has been found throughout California.
- The pest can transmit a disease called
   Huanglongbing (HLB) that kills citrus trees and has no cure.
- Local citrus trees, the commercial citrus industry and the thousands of jobs it supports are at risk.
- It's estimated that 60% of California residences have a citrus tree on their property.





# **HLB in Southern California**



\* As of November 1, 2019

- HLB has been
  detected in
  more than 1,660
  trees in Los
  Angeles,
  Orange, and
  Riverside
  counties.\*
- 1,016 sq. mile quarantine\*



# The Asian Citrus Psyllid

- Tiny insect that feeds on citrus plants
- Spreads a deadly plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB)



Actual size is 1/8th of an inch

 The best way to prevent HLB is to protect citrus trees from the Asian citrus psyllid





# The Disease

#### Huanglongbing (HLB)

- Kills citrus trees
- No cure
- NOT harmful to humans or animals
- Can take 2-5 years to show symptoms

#### Symptoms

- Asymmetrical yellow leaves
- Corky veins
- Small and bitter fruit
- Premature, excessive fruit drop



Suspicious symptoms on your tree? Contact CDFA: (800) 491-1899



#### **Best Practices**

- Don't move citrus plant materials or fruit off of your property
- Inspect citrus trees monthly, or whenever watering or pruning trees
- Cooperate with agriculture officials conducting detection and eradication efforts
- Treat for Asian citrus psyllid or remove tree if you can't take proper care of it
- Only purchase plants from reputable, licensed, local nurseries
- Report potential HLB sightings to the CDFA hotline: **800-491-1899**



# **HLB Detection and Testing**

- Before surveying, CDFA staff will contact homeowners to access the property.
- If HLB is suspected, samples of leaves and plant material are collected, bagged and sent to the CDFA laboratory for testing.
- If a sample is confirmed positive for HLB, the resident will be informed and CDFA staff will remove the infected tree at no cost.





# **Biological Control**

- Reduces population of the pests by using a natural predator.
- Trained teams of entomologists are releasing a tiny wasp called Tamarixia throughout Southern California.
- The wasp does not harm humans or pets.
- Cooperative efforts of UC Riverside, USDA, CDFA and Citrus Research Board.
- Lowers population of Asian citrus psyllid, but not a stand alone solution.





#### **Does your citrus tree have HLB?**

Contact the California Department of Food and Agriculture hotline for a free inspection at: (800) 491-1899 or

> Contact the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner at: (714) 955-0100

Visit our website or the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at:

#### CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org

or CDFA.CA.gov/plant/acp



#### Save Your Community's Citrus

- <u>Request informational materials</u> to distribute at community events or other occasions
- Stay informed follow us on Facebook and Twitter:
  - Facebook.com/CaliforniaCitrusThreat
  - <u>Twitter.com/CitrusThreat</u>
- Visit our website for pest and disease photos and information: <u>CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org</u>



# **Role of Agricultural Commissioner**

#### **County Agricultural Commissioner**

Protects consumers, home gardeners and agricultural producers by enforcing laws and regulations, including quarantines, to prevent entry of pests and plant diseases.

Perform inspection at:

- Shipping centers
- > Airports
- > Nurseries
- Certified Farmers' Markets





### **Questions?**



californiacitrusthreat.org

