

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2008-40  
August 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Asian Citrus Psyllid in St. James Parish, Louisiana, and Expansion of Quarantine Area

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Federal Order that expands the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine area to encompass St. James Parish, Louisiana. This action is necessary to prevent the interstate spread of ACP.

As a result of ongoing surveys conducted by APHIS and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), a new detection of ACP was identified in Louisiana, in St. James Parish on July 24. ACP's are the insect vector for citrus greening disease, which is also known as Huanglongbing, and is caused by the pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*. ACP samples from St. James Parish have tested negative for citrus greening (CG). Eight Louisiana parishes have now been confirmed with ACP. The attached Federal Order updates the previous version issued on July 22, 2008, with respect to the areas regulated for ACP, by adding St. James Parish to the list of quarantined areas.

On May 29, 2008, APHIS confirmed ACP in Louisiana and, to date, populations of ACP have been confirmed in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebonne, and St. Tammany parishes, as well as the current addition of St. James Parish. Wherever ACP's are found, leaf samples are also being gathered to test them for possible presence of CG bacteria. With the confirmation of CG in Orleans Parish, APHIS has applied phytosanitary measures to prevent the movement of host plants and plant materials from the parish. Due to the parallel regulations established by the State of Louisiana, only those parishes with CG or ACP will be established as quarantine areas and phytosanitary measures will be applied.

APHIS continues to work closely with officials from the LDAF to delimit the presence of both ACP and CG while assessing what other measures need to be taken in response to these new finds. ACP and CG are considered to be transient, actionable, and under surveillance in Louisiana. For additional information about this quarantine, you may contact Patrick Gomes, National Coordinator, Citrus Health Response Program, at Area Code (919) 855-7313.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

Rebecca A. Bech  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment:  
Federal Order