

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-49
October 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Infested Countries Added to Federal Quarantine Order for Citrus
Greening (CG) Disease and Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective November 6, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is issuing a revised Federal Quarantine Order (copy attached) restricting the importation of citrus seed from four additional countries to prevent the spread of the citrus diseases, CG and CVC.

Citrus Greening (CG), also known as Huanglongbing (HLB), and citrus variegated chlorosis (CVC) are harmful plant pests which spread via host commodities. CG occurs in Florida and with limited distribution in Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina. CG is under official control in all areas where it is present. CVC is not known to occur in the United States. The attached, "Federal Quarantine Order: Citrus Greening (CG) Disease and Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC)" prohibits the importation of citrus seeds from known host genera in the family Rutaceae from infested countries because recent reports indicate that seeds for planting may be a pathway for the spread of CG and CVC.

This Federal Order updates and replaces the previous CG and CVC Federal Order (January 29, 2008) by adding four countries, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, after they were determined to be infested with CG. This Order also details restrictions on the importation from infested countries of seed for planting of specific genera within Rutaceae that are known hosts of the CG and CVC causal organisms. Non-infested countries may export Rutaceae seeds with an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin with an additional declaration that the country of origin is free of CG and CVC, providing the seed meets the existing requirements.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Arnold Tschanz at (301) 734-5306 or arnold.t.tschanz@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/

Paul Eggert for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment

**FEDERAL QUARANTINE ORDER
CITRUS GREENING DISEASE (CG) AND
CITRUS VARIEGATED CHLOROSIS (CVC)**

October 6, 2009

This Federal Order prevents the entry and introduction of two harmful citrus diseases into the United States: bacteria *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp., the causal agent of citrus greening disease (CG) (also known as Huanglongbing/HLB); and *Xylella fastidiosa*, the causal agent of citrus variegated chlorosis disease (CVC).

This Federal Order, issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States.

Citrus Greening (CG) and citrus variegated chlorosis (CVC) are harmful plant pests which spread via host commodities. CG occurs in Florida, while CVC is not known to be present in the United States. CG and CVC are highly injurious diseases of citrus and information indicates that both CG and CVC can be transmitted through the seeds to the resulting seedlings, although the rates of seed transmission differ. The use of seedlings as rootstocks is standard industry practice for the production of citrus trees. Both disease organisms can be present in infected plants without any observable signs or symptoms and infected plants can grow undetected for extended periods of time.

This quarantine action is necessary because the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) determined that the introduction and establishment of CG and CVC poses a serious threat to many citrus and citrus related genera grown in the United States. Citrus greening is found in several countries in Asia and Africa and has limited distribution in Central America, North America, South America, and Oceania. Citrus variegated chlorosis is found in Central and South America. CG affects over eighteen Rutaceae genera, while CVC affects only *Citrus* spp.

To prevent the introduction of these harmful plant pests into the United States, the APHIS Administrator determined that it is necessary to prohibit the importation of seed of citrus and related genera from certain countries. Specific genera (in the family Rutaceae of which citrus is a part) are prohibited and listed below.

This Federal Order updates and replaces the previous CG and CVC Federal Order (January 29, 2008) by adding four countries, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, after they were determined to be infested with CG.

This Federal Order is effective on November 6, 2009.

Prohibited Plant Genera (Rutaceae):

Aeglopsis, Atalantia, Balsamocitrus, Bergera, Calodendrum, Citrofortunella, ×Citroncirus, Citrus, Clausena, Fortunella, Limonia, Microcitrus, Murraya, Poncirus, Severinia, Swinglea, Toddalia, and Triphasia.

Infested Countries:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica, Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Seeds for planting from the above listed genera are prohibited into the United States from the above mentioned countries. Additionally, seeds for planting of those genera from countries not listed above can only be imported into the United States if, upon arrival at the first port of entry, they are accompanied by an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin with an additional declaration stating that the country where the seed for planting was produced is free of CG and CVC.

____/s/ Paul Eggert for _____ 10/06/2009 _____
Rebecca A. Bech Date
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine