

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2012-55
December 31, 2012

SUBJECT: Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri*, Confirmed in Tulare County, California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

In response to the confirmation of three adult Asian citrus psyllids (ACP) in Tulare County, California, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and Tulare County officials have implemented measures to facilitate the safe movement of ACP host material in domestic and foreign commerce.

On December 4, CDFA placed 163-square miles within Tulare County under restriction for the movement of ACP host material. Growers located in the restricted zone, which includes a 5-mile radius around each detection site in the Lindsay, Strathmore, and Terra Bella areas, can still ship citrus nursery stock and fruit out of the area with appropriate mitigations. CDFA took this action as an interim measure under its emergency authority to protect California against the spread of the pest while evaluating whether the detections are evidence of an established ACP population.

In addition, APHIS is working with its State and County partners to conduct surveys around the detection sites to determine if a reproducing population of ACP is present. One round of surveys has been completed with no new detections. These surveys, which are expected to continue for 2 years, will resume this spring when new flushes of citrus foliage are available, providing optimal opportunities to detect ACP. CDFA and County officials are also conducting visual surveys for symptoms of citrus greening, or Huanglongbing (HLB), and taking plant samples for HLB analysis. ACP is the vector of HLB, a quarantine significant citrus plant disease.

For additional information regarding the ACP program, please contact Prakash Hebbar, Citrus Health Response Program, National Coordinator at (301) 851-2228 or Lynn Evans-Goldner, Citrus Disease Program, National Program Manager at (301) 851-2286.

/s/ Osama El-Lissy for

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