

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2016-36

June 2, 2016

Subject: APHIS establishes a citrus canker (*Xanthomonas* spp.) quarantine in portions of Cameron County, Texas

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is establishing a quarantine area for citrus canker (CC) in Texas.

Following the positive identification of *Xanthomonas* spp., the bacterial causal agent of CC, from dooryard Mexican lime, Kaffir lime, and Ponderosa lemon trees located in Rancho Viejo, Texas, APHIS and the Texas Department of Agriculture completed a delimiting survey. No commercial citrus production is contained within the quarantined area. To date, no sweet oranges or grapefruit have tested positive for citrus canker. The current infestation is the first known incidence of citrus canker in Texas after its eradication in 1943.

The attached Federal Order adds portions of Cameron County in Texas to the CC quarantined area in the United States. Texas has established an intra-state quarantined area for CC that parallels the federal CC regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR §301.75.

Under the current CC quarantine regulations, the interstate movement of citrus plants and plant parts—other than commercially packed and disinfected citrus fruit—remains prohibited with the following exception: Citrus nursery stock that is moved in accordance with regulations contained in 7 CFR §301.76 may move from areas quarantined for CC.

For additional information regarding the CC program, you may call Citrus Health Response Program National Coordinator Mary Palm at 301-851-2069, or Citrus Disease Program National Policy Manager Angela McMellen Brannigan at 301-851-2314.



Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

## FEDERAL ORDER

### Domestic Quarantine for Portions of Cameron County in Texas for Citrus Canker (*Xanthomonas* spp.)

DA-2016-36

June 2, 2016

The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the spread of the plant disease citrus canker (CC) caused by *Xanthomonas* spp.<sup>1</sup> This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.75 *et. seq.*

#### **Addition of Quarantined Areas**

Effective immediately, this Federal Order adds portions of Cameron County in Texas to the citrus canker (*Xanthomonas* spp.) quarantined area. This action is in response to the detection of CC in these areas. Following the initial detection of CC in Cameron County and subsequent delimiting surveys, we have determined that these areas meet the criteria in § 301.75-4 (b) of the regulation to be designated as a quarantined area.

To prevent the spread of CC, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) finds it necessary to regulate portions of Cameron County in Texas. Accordingly—and effective immediately—all interstate movement of CC regulated articles from these areas must be done in accordance with the regulations promulgated in accordance with the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.75 *et seq.* and any applicable provisions of this Federal Order.

Section 7 CFR 301.75-4 (d) allows the designation of less than an entire state as a CC regulated area only when the Administrator of APHIS has determined, as in this case, that the designation of less than an entire state as a regulated CC area is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of infestations of CC. In addition, 7 CFR 301.75-4 (d) (2) requires that the state enforce an intrastate CC quarantine that is equivalent to the federal CC regulations. The state plant regulatory official for Texas has confirmed the establishment of an intra-state quarantine area for CC that mirrors the federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR 301.75.

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<sup>1</sup> Citrus canker is caused by *Xanthomonas* spp. *Xanthomonas* spp. refers to (1) *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (Xac A, A\* and AW) with synonyms *X. citri* pv. *citri*, or *X. citri* subsp. *citri* or *X. campestris* pv. *citri* or *X. smithii* subsp. *citri* and (2) *X. axonopodis* pv. *aurantifolii* (Xac B & C) with a synonym *X. fuscans* subsp. *aurantifolii*.

Section 7 CFR 301.75-4 (b) provides for the temporary designation of new regulated areas pending publication of a rule to add the new areas to the list shown in 7 CFR 301.75-4 (a). Section 7 CFR 301.75-4 (b) further requires written notification be given to the owner or person who possesses a newly quarantined area. This is the responsibility of the federal and/or state regulatory personnel who are responsible for the CC program in the affected state.

For additional information regarding the CC program, please call the Citrus Pest Program's National Coordinator Mary Palm at 301-851-2069. You may also call the Citrus Disease Program's National Policy Manager Angela McMellen Brannigan at 301-851-2314.

We continue to appreciate the cooperative relationship with the state regulatory officials and the citrus industry in our effort to prevent the spread of CC.

### **Quarantine Boundaries**

This Federal Order updates §301.75-4 (a) as follows:

Texas.

The portions of Cameron County bounded by a line described as, starting at a point at the Texas Mexico border described by the GPS latitude-longitude coordinates 26.025698 and -97.641781, and then North along Los Ranchitos Rd to a point described as 26.026834 degrees and -97.634729 degrees, then North to a point described as 26.029285 degrees and -97.634323 degrees, then East to a point described as 26.028251 degrees and -97.629573 degrees, then North on FM1577 to 26.043864 degrees and -97.625229 degrees, then West to a point described as 26.04401 degrees -97.632558 degrees, then North to a point described as 26.059174 degrees -97.631963 degrees, then East to a point described as 26.058461 degrees -97.613835 degrees, then Northeast on Rice Track Rd, then Continue East on TX 100 to FM1575, then South on FM1575 until it changes to Old Alice Rd, then South on Old Alice Road to the Rail Road Tracks, then South West on the Rail Road Tracks to US83, then South on US 83 to W Alton Gloor Blvd, then South on W Alton Gloor Blvd to Military Highway, then Northwest on Military Highway to the intersection of Military Highway and Cameron Blvd at a point described as 25.961891 degrees and -97.577705 degrees, then South to a point described as 25.943913 degrees and -97.579697 degrees, and then Northwest along the Texas Mexico border to the starting point.

For additional information regarding the CC program, you may call Citrus Health Response Program National Coordinator Mary Palm at 301-851-2069, or Citrus Disease Program National Policy Manager Angela McMellen Brannigan at 301-851-2314.