

MAY 19 2016

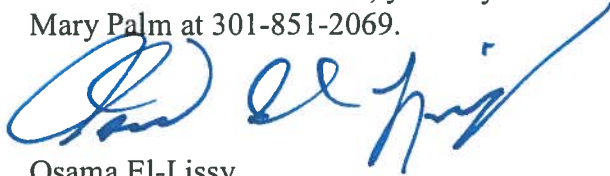
Subject: APHIS Revises Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid Domestic Quarantine Regulatory Requirements for *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. Seed

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is allowing the interstate movement of *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. seed from areas regulated for citrus greening (CG). In addition, APHIS is modifying the regulations for CG and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) to remove *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. seed from the list of regulated articles.

APHIS is taking this action based on the findings of recent risk assessments, which concluded that it is improbable that any *Candidatus Liberibacter* species—the causal agents of CG—would be transmitted by seeds and result in diseased *Citrus* spp. or *Poncirus* spp. Removal of *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. seed from the list of regulated articles will relieve restrictions for growers and open market opportunities for trade in seed. APHIS will continue to regulate seed of non-*Citrus* spp. and non-*Poncirus* spp. hosts of CG. If additional evidence is revealed on seed transmission, APHIS will reassess the list of regulated articles.

For additional information, you may call Citrus Health Response Program National Coordinator Mary Palm at 301-851-2069.



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid Domestic Quarantine Regulatory Requirements for Seed

DA-2016-30

MAY 19 2016

Effective immediately, this Federal Order removes *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. seed from the list of regulated articles for citrus greening (CG) and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP).

This Federal Order is 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). 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 also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 301.76. The regulations designate certain articles, including seed, as regulated articles.

APHIS established the current CG and ACP regulations in an interim rule effective and published in the *Federal Register* on June 17, 2010 (75 FR 34322 34336, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0015). At that time, seed of select species was determined to be a host of CG but not ACP. APHIS based this determination on scientific evidence that a small percentage of seedlings from the seed of CG-infected plants tested positive for the bacterium.

Since 2010, APHIS received several requests to re-evaluate our policy on the interstate movement of seed from areas quarantined for CG. Removal of seed from the list of regulated articles will relieve restrictions for growers and open market opportunities for trade in seed. The movement of seed from an area quarantined only for ACP is already allowed without restriction.

To respond to these requests, APHIS published an analysis entitled “Global Pest List of *Citrus* spp. Pathogens and an Examination of Evidence for Seed Transmission.” As detailed in the analysis, research results obtained after publication of the original domestic quarantine for CG found that *Candidatus Liberibacter* cells were present in seed coats, but even a large number of cells are insufficient to lead to the infection of the embryo on its own. Additionally, there is no vascular continuity between maternal seed tissue, including the seed coat, and the developing embryo. Based on the above evidence, APHIS is revising the domestic quarantine regulations for CG to allow the interstate movement of *Citrus* spp. and *Poncirus* spp. seed from areas quarantined for CG.

APHIS will continue to regulate seed of the following CG hosts:

- *Aegle marmelos*,
- *Aeglopsis chevalieri*,

- *Afraegle gabonensis*,
- *Afraegle paniculata*,
- *Amyris madrensis*,
- *Atalantia* spp. (including *Atalantia monophylla*),
- *Balsamocitrus dawei*,
- *Bergera* (=Murraya) *koenigii*,
- *Calodendrum capense*,
- *Choisya ternata*,
- *Choisya arizonica*,
- X *Citroncirus webberi*,
- *Citropsis articulata*,
- *Citropsis gilletiana*,
- *Clausena anisum-olens*,
- *Clausena excavata*,
- *Clausena indica*,
- *Clausena lansium*,
- *Eremocitrus glauca*,
- *Eremocitrus* hybrids,
- *Esenbeckia berlandieri*,
- *Fortunella* spp.,
- *Limonia acidissima*,
- *Merrillia caloxylon*,
- *Microcitrus australasica*,
- *Microcitrus australis*,
- *Microcitrus papuana*,
- X *Microcitronella* spp.,
- *Murraya* spp.,
- *Naringi crenulata*,
- *Pamburus missionis*,
- *Severinia buxifolia*,
- *Swinglea glutinosa*,
- *Tetradium ruticarpum*,
- *Toddalia asiatica*,
- *Triphasia trifolia*,
- *Vepris* (=Toddalia) *lanceolata*, and
- *Zanthoxylum fagara*.

Areas quarantined for ACP-CG and citrus black spot, citrus canker, and/or sweet orange scab

Some ACP and CG quarantined areas include quarantines for other diseases of rutaceous plants, and may apply to seed.

- Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). The movement of seed from an area quarantined only for ACP is allowed without restriction under 7 CFR Part 301.6 et seq.

- Citrus black spot (CBS). APHIS issued a Federal Order and established a domestic quarantine for CBS on October 14, 2010. Seed is currently a regulated article for CBS.
- Citrus canker (CC). The domestic quarantine regulations for CC are located at 7 CFR Part 301.75 et seq. Seed is regulated for CC, although regulated seed may be moved interstate from a CC quarantined area provided it is moved pursuant to requirements outlined in 301.75-8.
- Sweet orange scab (SOS). APHIS issued a Federal Order and established a domestic quarantine for SOS on December 22, 2010. Seed is not regulated for SOS.

For additional information, you may call Citrus Health Response Program National Coordinator Mary Palm at 301-851-2069.