

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

DA-2008-06

January 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Federal Import Quarantine Order for Huanglongbing (HLB)
Disease of
Citrus and Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective immediately, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is issuing a Federal Import Quarantine Order (copy attached) restricting the importation of citrus seed to prevent the spread of the citrus diseases, HLB and CVC.

On November 2, 2007 and January 11, 2008, PPQ expanded the domestic quarantine of citrus greening, a citrus disease also known as HLB, under the Federal Domestic Quarantine Orders: Citrus Greening Disease (CG) and Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), (DA# 2007-54; DA-2008-02) due to the detection and spread in Florida of citrus greening caused by the bacterium, *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*. The attached, "Federal Import Quarantine Order: Huanglongbing (HLB) Disease of Citrus and Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC)" prohibits the importation of citrus seeds from known host genera in the family Rutaceae from certain countries because recent reports indicate that seeds for planting may be a pathway for the spread of HLB and CVC.

This Order details restrictions on the importation from infested countries of seed for planting of specific genera within Rutaceae that are known hosts of the HLB and CVC causal organisms. These restricted Rutaceae genera are similar to those quarantined by the above mentioned Federal Domestic Orders. Non-restricted countries may import Rutaceae seeds with an import permit, phytosanitary certification from the country of origin, and a declaration that the country of origin is free of HLB and CVC.

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

/s/ Jeffrey J. Grode for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment

FEDERAL IMPORT QUARANTINE ORDER:
HUANGLONGBING (HLB) DISEASE OF CITRUS
and CITRUS VARIEGATED CHLOROSIS (CVC)

January 25, 2008

The purpose and goal of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry from foreign countries into the United States of two harmful citrus disease causal agents: one is the bacteria *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp., the causal agent of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease of citrus (also known as citrus greening); and the other one is *Xylella fastidiosa*, citrus variegated chlorosis strain, the causal agent of citrus variegated chlorosis (CVC) disease. This Federal Order is issued pursuant to Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation or entry of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the entry of a plant pest into the United States.

HLB and CVC are highly injurious diseases of citrus. New information regarding these citrus diseases indicates that both HLB and CVC can be transmitted through seeds to the resulting seedling. The use of seedlings as rootstocks is the standard practice for the production of citrus trees. Thus, this new information regarding transmission through seeds for planting becomes relevant in attempting to control the introduction and spread of these citrus diseases. Also, both disease organisms can be present in infected plants without any observable signs or symptoms, therefore infected plants in a new location can potentially go undetected for some extended period of time.

Within the United States, HLB is only known to occur in the State of Florida where it is currently being regulated and controlled pursuant to the Federal Domestic Quarantine Order issued on January 11, 2008 which revised and updated the November 2, 2007, Federal Order that had quarantined 28 counties in Florida for HLB. On the other hand, CVC is not known to occur in the United States. There are other citrus diseases of concern besides HLB and CVC. At this time, the importation of plants or any plant parts, except fruit and seed, of all genera, species, and varieties of the subfamilies Aurantioideae, Rutoideae, and Toddalioideae of the botanical family Rutaceae is prohibited under 7 CFR 319.19, (the section entitled: Citrus Canker and Other Citrus Diseases Quarantine) to prevent the introduction of citrus canker and other citrus diseases.

Therefore, in light of the new information mentioned above and in order to prevent the entry of *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp. and CVC strain of *X. fastidiosa*, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that it is necessary to no longer allow the importation of seed for planting of certain specific genera from the countries listed below which are infested with *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp. and/or the CVC strain of *X. fastidiosa*. Due to the seriousness of the potential for the spread of these very harmful citrus diseases, this Federal Order is effective immediately upon issuance.

Prohibited Plant Genera:

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

Infested Countries:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica, Comoros, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, 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.

No seeds for planting of the above listed genera can be imported into the United States from the above mentioned countries. Additionally, seeds for planting of those genera from other countries not listed above can only be imported into the United States if, upon arrival at the first port of entry, the seeds for planting of the above genera 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 HLB and CVC.