

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-61
September 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Establishment of Asian Citrus Psyllid Quarantine Areas in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and the Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Texas

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a revised Federal Order that establishes Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine areas in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and expands the ACP quarantine area in Texas. This action is necessary to prevent the interstate spread of ACP.

As a result of ongoing surveys conducted by APHIS in cooperation with respective State departments of agriculture, detections of ACP in the following States have been confirmed since August 6, 2008:

Alabama: Baldwin County.

Georgia: Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty, and McIntosh Counties.

Mississippi: Hancock County

South Carolina: Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton Counties.

In addition, the presence of ACP has been confirmed in Brazos, Fort Bend, and Jefferson Counties in Texas. Since ACP had previously been confirmed in 32 counties in Texas, and a quarantine area had been established in the State, these new detections will result in an expansion of the quarantine area to include these three additional counties.

The attached Federal Order updates the previous version issued on August 5, 2008, with respect to the areas now regulated for ACP, by adding Baldwin County Alabama, the entire State of Georgia, Hancock County Mississippi, Beaufort, Charleston, and Colleton Counties in South Carolina, and Brazos, Ft. Bend, and Jefferson Counties in Texas. Although ACP has only been found in five counties in Georgia, the State has elected not to establish parallel quarantine areas and thus the entire State will be listed as a quarantined area. In Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina, the States have informed APHIS that they were in the process of establishing parallel quarantine areas and thus only the counties in which ACP has been confirmed will be added to the list of ACP-quarantined areas. In Texas, the State has published an emergency rule, which adds the three new counties to the State ACP quarantine. Texas will also adopt this emergency rule on a permanent basis.

Wherever ACP's are found, following confirmation of the identity of the insects they are tested to determine if they are infected with citrus greening (CG). In addition, leaf samples are also being gathered and tested for possible presence of CG bacteria. In the case of all of the recent detections discussed in this document, no evidence of CG was found in either the psyllids or the leaf samples.

APHIS continues to work closely with in all of the affected States to delimit the presence ACP and to identify any CG infestations that may be present, while assessing what other measures need to be taken in response to these new finds. For additional information about this program, you may contact Patrick Gomes, National Coordinator, Citrus Health Response Program, at Area Code (919) 855-7313.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

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Attachment:
Federal Order