

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2010-18
May 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Citrus Greening (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*) in the Virgin Islands

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On April 21, 2010, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the first detection citrus greening (CG), also referred to as Huanglongbing (HLB), in plant tissue samples collected from key lime trees located at a local agricultural experiment station near St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, plant tissue samples of key lime from nearby residential properties also tested positive for the disease. Based on recent surveys, the insect vector responsible for transmitting this disease, Asian citrus psyllid, is also present.

Interstate movement of citrus and other Rutaceous host plants, cuttings, plant parts and products are prohibited entry into other parts of the United States under 7 CFR 318.13. In response, APHIS is expanding the CG-quarantine area to include the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CG disease is also present in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana (Orleans and Washington Parishes), Puerto Rico and South Carolina (Beaufort and Charleston Counties).

For additional information regarding this program, you may contact Patrick Gomes, National Coordinator, Citrus Health Response Program, at Area Code (919) 855-7313.

/s/**Osama El-Lissy** /for

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