

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2006-56
December 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Interstate Movement of Calamondin and Kumquat Plants from Florida - Clarification

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

In response to questions concerning the application of certain requirements set out in the recent SPRO, we have made minor revisions that will clarify the conditions under which calamondin and kumquat nursery stock may be moved interstate. Although these plants are typically used for ornamental purposes rather than for establishing new citrus plantings, they are properly classified as nursery stock. This includes the requirement that the facility in which they are produced is recognized by the State of Florida as a nursery. In the Citrus Canker Quarantine (7 CFR 301.75) we have established a definition of a nursery: "*Nursery*. Any premises, including greenhouses but excluding any grove, at which plants are grown or maintained for propagation or replanting."

APHIS is taking action to allow the interstate movement of calamondin and kumquat nursery stock from Florida to exclusively non-citrus producing States under strict conditions that were previously developed and approved in an earlier version of the Federal Citrus Canker Quarantine (7 CFR 301.75). Considering that these two species are sufficiently resistant to citrus canker disease, adhering to existing conditions governing their movement will effectively mitigate any risk of spreading citrus canker.

A limited permit will be required for the interstate movement of own-root-only (not grafted or budded) calamondin and kumquat plants, with or without fruit attached, to any area of the United States except commercial citrus-producing areas, and will be issued only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The plants were always located on the nursery premises from which they will be moved interstate.
2. If plants are not grown from seed, then cuttings used for propagation must be taken from plants located on the same nursery premises, from another nursery under the same ownership, or at any nursery operating under a compliance agreement that insures that cuttings are produced in a way that insures that they will be free from citrus canker. Cuttings cannot be obtained from property where citrus canker is present, or that is subject to State or USDA imposed quarantine action for citrus canker.
3. All citrus plants at the nursery premises must undergo State inspection and be found free of citrus canker no less than three times and approximately 30 days apart, with the most recent survey being within 30 days of the date on which plants were removed and packed for shipment.

4. The nursery where the plants are grown must not have, within the past 2 years, contained any plants or plant parts infested with or exposed to citrus canker. Or, if citrus canker was present at the nursery within the past two years, all regulated plants and plant material will have to be removed from the nursery; all areas of the nursery's facilities where plants are grown and all associated equipment and tools used at the nursery will have to be decontaminated using an APHIS-approved treatment; and after 15 calendar days, new citrus plants from an approved nursery certified by the State as being citrus canker-free may be introduced.

5. Plants, except for plants hermetically sealed in plastic bags before leaving the nursery, will be completely enclosed in containers or vehicle compartments during movement through Florida.

6. A statement that the plants are being moved under the conditions of a Federal Limited Permit, and are not for distribution within American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Texas, or the Virgin Islands of the United States must be displayed on a plastic or metal tag attached to each plant, or on the box or container if the plant is sealed in plastic. In addition, this language must be on the outside of any shipping containers used to transport these plants.

This action only applies to the calamondin and kumquat plants, and only those plants that are grown outside of areas quarantined for citrus greening under the current Federal Order. If you wish more details about this action, you may contact Staff Officer Stephen Poe at (301) 734-8899.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

Richard L. Dunkle
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Plant Protection and Quarantine