

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2012-30
August 9, 2012

SUBJECT: APHIS Establishes Citrus Greening (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*) Regulated Area in Texas and Updates Conditions for the Movement of Regulated Articles

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Effective September 1, 2012, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will establish a regulated area for citrus greening in a 5-mile radius area of Hidalgo County, Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will parallel this action by publishing an equivalent intrastate quarantine.

On January 13, 2012, APHIS confirmed the presence of citrus greening, also referred to as Huanglongbing, in a commercial citrus grove in the San Juan area of Hidalgo County, Texas. In response to this detection, APHIS, TDA, and the Texas citrus industry are working together to conduct survey, control, and regulatory activities within the 5-mile radius around the detection site. Additionally, TDA enacted a temporary emergency quarantine to prevent the artificial spread of citrus greening from this area. Since 2009, APHIS has regulated the entire state for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), the insect vector responsible for transmitting citrus greening.

Also effective September 1, APHIS will allow, under certain conditions, the intrastate movement of attached or detached leaves, stems, branches, and debris from regulated citrus greening and ACP host plants that are associated with fruit harvested from a citrus greening regulated area to a processing plant, packinghouse, or disposal facility that is located outside of the regulated area. To be eligible for movement, the state must have an established state-led monitoring program, which includes periodic on-site inspections and monitoring. In addition, the movement must occur under specified conditions outlined in compliance agreements.

APHIS is taking these actions to prevent the spread of citrus greening into noninfested areas of the United States. The attached Federal Order outlines the requirements for the interstate movement of citrus greening-regulated articles from Texas and the amendments to the current conditions for movement that are applicable to all states with less than full state quarantines for citrus greening. APHIS will post a description of the citrus greening regulated area in Texas at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml

For additional information regarding this program, please contact Dr. Prakash Hebbar, Citrus Health Response Program Coordinator, at Area Code (301) 851-2228.

/s/ Rebecca A. Bech

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER
DA-2012-30
August 9, 2012

**Quarantine for ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*’
Causal Agent of Citrus Greening (CG)**

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), which 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, and is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR §301.76. The purpose of this Federal Order is to prevent the spread of the bacterial plant pathogen, ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*’, the causal agent of Citrus Greening (CG) also known as Huanglongbing (HLB).

The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) considers it necessary, in order to prevent the dissemination of CG, to establish restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles from an area in the State of Texas. The Administrator also considers it necessary to allow certain CG regulated articles to move from the quarantined areas with certain restrictions. Effective September 1, 2012, this Federal Order expands the quarantine to include an area in Texas that is described below, and amends the current conditions for movement to allow regulated plant parts associated with fruit to move from any CG quarantined area to packinghouses or processing facilities under compliance agreement, as described in this Federal Order.

A. Quarantined Areas:

The Administrator will list as a quarantined area each State, or each portion of a State, when the presence of citrus greening is confirmed within the area by an APHIS-administered test, or when the Administrator considers it necessary to quarantine the area because of its inseparability for quarantine enforcement purposes from localities in which citrus greening has been found. Less than an entire State will be designated as a quarantined area only if the Administrator determines that:

1. The State has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on the intrastate movement of the regulated articles that are equivalent to those imposed by APHIS for the interstate movement of regulated articles; and
2. The designation of less than the entire State as a quarantined area will prevent the interstate spread of CG.

The Administrator or an inspector may temporarily designate any non-quarantined area as a quarantined area. The Administrator will give a copy of this Order, along with a written notice for the temporary designation, to the owner or person in possession of the area to be established as a quarantined area. Thereafter, the interstate movement of any regulated article from an area temporarily designated as a quarantined area will be subject to this Order. When feasible, this area will be added to the list of quarantined areas or the designation will be terminated by the Administrator or an inspector. The owner or person in possession of an area for which a quarantine designation is terminated will be given notice of the termination as soon as possible.

The Administrator will publish a description of all areas quarantined for citrus greening on the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Web site:

[\(\[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml\]\(http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml\)\)](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml).

The description of each quarantined area will include the date the description was last updated and a description of any changes that have been made to the quarantined area. Lists of all quarantined areas may also be obtained by request from any local office of PPQ; local offices are listed in telephone directories and on the Internet at

[\(\[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml\]\(http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml\)\)](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml).

After a change is made to the description of quarantined areas, APHIS will notify state regulatory authorities that a change has occurred and describe the change to the quarantined areas. APHIS will also publish a notice in the *Federal Register* informing the public that the change has occurred and describing the change to the quarantined areas.

All movement of regulated articles from the quarantined areas listed at the website, including those boundaries described below, must be done in accordance with the provisions of this Federal Order and the regulations found at 7 CFR §301.76:

This Federal Order adds the area below to the list of citrus greening quarantined areas:

Texas

In Hidalgo County: Starting at a point described as N26.092345 degrees and W98.143389 degrees, then West to a point described as N26.091944 degrees and W98.151891 degrees, then West to a point described as N26.092451 degrees and W98.161387 degrees, then West to a point described as N26.095246 degrees and W98.176367 degrees, then North West to a point described as N26.102571 degrees and W98.194316 degrees, then North West to a point described as N26.112126 degrees and W98.207752 degrees, then North West to a point described as N26.119346 degrees and W98.214906 degrees, then North West to a point described as N26.127551 degrees and W98.221651 degrees, then North West to a point described as N26.130722 degrees and W98.223631 degrees, then North to a point described as N26.147012 degrees and W98.230526 degrees, then North to a point described as N26.163728 degrees and W98.232918 degrees, then North to a point described as

N26.16734 degrees and W98.232894 degrees, then North to a point described as N26.177266 degrees and W98.231828 degrees, then North East to a point described as N26.19214 degrees and W98.227227 degrees, then North East to a point described as N26.202493 degrees and W98.221654 degrees, then North East to a point described as N26.215525 degrees and W98.210556 degrees, then North East to a point described as N26.222527 degrees and W98.201611 degrees, then North East to a point described as N26.227622 degrees and W98.193957 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.232083 degrees and W98.184415 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.23386 degrees and W98.179397 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.237379 degrees and W98.163353 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.237807 degrees and W98.159345 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.237712 degrees and W98.143327 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.237237 degrees and W98.139326 degrees, then East to a point described as N26.233989 degrees and W98.124833 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.228947 degrees and W98.112357 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.223016 degrees and W98.102392 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.221195 degrees and W98.099903 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.214489 degrees and W98.092725 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.211194 degrees and W98.08897 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.206528 degrees and W98.085674 degrees, then South East to a point described as N26.205749 degrees and W98.084508 degrees, then South to a point described as N26.192155 degrees and W98.076608 degrees, then South to a point described as N26.18401 degrees and W98.07367 degrees, then South to a point described as N26.171354 degrees and W98.071269 degrees, then South to a point described as N26.15736 degrees and W98.07138 degrees, then South to a point described as N26.148793 degrees and W98.072948 degrees, then South West to a point described as N26.139332 degrees and W98.076024 degrees, then South West to a point described as N26.126285 degrees and W98.083128 degrees, then South West to a point described as N64.439075 degrees and E0.014462 degrees, then South West to a point described as N26.103864 degrees and W98.107304 degrees, then West to a point described as N26.097624 degrees and W98.120351 degrees, then West to a point described as N26.093646 degrees and W98.13438 degrees and then returning West to the Starting Point.

B. Regulated Articles:

The following are regulated articles and may not be moved interstate from a quarantined area unless they are moved in accordance with this Order:

1. All plants and plant parts (including leaves), except fruit, of: *Aegle marmelos*, *Aeglopsis chevalieri*, *Afraegle gabonensis*, *A. paniculata*, *Amyris madrensis*, *Atalantia* spp. (including *Atalantia monophylla*), *Balsamocitrus dawei*, *Bergera* (= *Murraya*) *koenigii*, *Calodendrum capense*, *Choisya ternata*, *C. arizonica*, X *Citroncirus webberi*, *Citropsis articulata*, *Citropsis gillettiana*, *Citrus madurensis* (= X *Citrofortunella microcarpa*), *Citrus* spp., *Clausena anisum-olens*, *C. excavata*, *C. indica*, *C. lansium*, *Eremocitrus glauca*, *Eremocitrus* hybrid, *Esenbeckia berlandieri*, *Fortunella* spp., *Limonia acidissima*, *Merrillia caloxylon*, *Microcitrus australasica*, *M. australis*, *M. papuana*, X *Microcitronella* spp., *Murraya* spp., *Naringi crenulata*, *Pamburus missionis*, *Poncirus trifoliata*, *Severinia buxifolia*, *Swinglea glutinosa*, *Tetradium ruticarpum*, *Toddalia asiatica*, *Triphasia trifolia*, *Vepris* (= *Toddalia*) *lanceolata*, and *Zanthoxylum fagara*.
2. Propagative seed of the species listed in B 1 of this section.
3. Any other product, article, or means of conveyance may be designated a regulated article for CG, if an inspector determines that it presents a risk of spreading the disease, and after the inspector provides written notification to the person in possession of the product, article, or means of conveyance that it is subject to the restrictions of this subpart.

C. Conditions for Movement of Regulated Articles:

Regulated articles listed in Section B are prohibited from movement from CG quarantined areas except under all of the following conditions:

1. Nursery stock may move from quarantined areas if it is moved in accordance with all regulations found in 7 CFR §301.76, the APHIS protocol entitled “Interstate Movement of Citrus and Other Rutaceous Plants for Planting from Areas Quarantined for Citrus Canker, Citrus Greening, or Asian Citrus Psyllid”, and all applicable State regulations.
2. If a State with a CG quarantined area, has an established State monitoring program which includes periodic on-site inspections and monitoring of intrastate movement conducted by the State, the State may allow intrastate movement of attached or detached leaves, stems, branches, and debris of regulated CG host plants that are attached to or associated with fruit that is harvested within a quarantined area to a packing house processing facility, or to a disposal facility located outside of the quarantined area, if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Grove owner, harvesters, transporters, packinghouse owners, and processing plant owners must have a signed Compliance Agreement with the State official; and
 - b. Grove owner, harvesters, transporters, packinghouse owners, and processing plant

- owners must comply with a State monitoring program, including periodic on-site inspections, and monitoring for the movement of attached or detached leaves, stems, branches, and debris of regulated CG host plants that are attached to or associated with fruit that is harvested within a quarantined area and moved outside of the quarantined area for packing, processing, or disposal.
- c. Grove owners must operate under a Compliance Agreement that stipulates all of the following conditions:
- i. In groves in which CG has not been confirmed to be positive, grove managers should work with the harvest crew to remove as many leaves, stems, and any other plant material, as feasible, during fruit picking.
 - ii. To the extent practicable, fruit harvested from a grove in which trees have or had been previously confirmed positive for CG, must have, leaves, stems, branches, and debris removed from the fruit prior to movement outside of the quarantined area.
 - iii. The grove manager must contact the State official a minimum of 24 hours prior to harvest and provide the following information in order for the State official to monitor fruit movement:
 - (1) Grove name, and
 - (2) Grove address, and
 - (3) Name of grove operator.
 - iv. After fruit packing and/or processing, the remaining leaves, stems, branches, and debris must be:
 - Placed in black plastic trash bags and sealed in the bag as soon as the fruit is packed or processed; and
 - Sealed bags must be exposed to solar radiation for 7 days and disposed of in a landfill; or
 - Sealed bags must be exposed to solar radiation for 7 days and returned within 24 hours to the grove from which they originated for disposal.
- d. Harvesters must operate under a Compliance Agreement that stipulates all of the following conditions:
- i. Only fruit harvested from groves whose owners have signed Compliance Agreements will be moved out of the quarantined area.
 - ii. In groves in which CG has not been confirmed to be positive, harvesters should work with grove managers to remove as many leaves, stems, and any other plant material, as feasible, during fruit picking.
 - iii. To the extent practicable, fruit harvested from a grove in which trees have or had been previously confirmed positive for CG, must have, leaves, stems, branches, and debris removed from the fruit prior to movement outside of the quarantined area.
 - iv. If the harvesters also transport the fruit to packinghouses and/or processing facilities outside of the quarantined area, then all stipulations outlined in Section “e” must also be followed.

- e. Transporters must operate under a Compliance Agreement that stipulates all of the following conditions:
 - i. Attached or detached leaves, stems, branches, and debris of regulated CG host plants that are attached to or associated with fruit that is harvested within a quarantined area must be transported in vehicles that meet all of the following conditions:
 - (1) If the vehicle has solid wall construction on the sides and rear of the cargo area, the cargo area must be covered with a solid tarpaulin on the open top before the vehicle departs from the loading site.
 - (2) If the vehicle has side- and rear-wall construction of wire mesh screen or expanded metal, it must have the cargo area covered completely (to the bed of the vehicle) with a solid tarpaulin before the vehicle departs from the loading site.
 - ii. Vehicles transporting pallet boxes, field boxes, field bins, etc., must have the cargo area completely covered with a solid tarpaulin or with ACP proof barriers that extends to below the top of the bottom row of boxes before the vehicle departs from the loading site.
 - iii. Tarpaulins or covers used as ACP proof barriers must be in good repair (i.e. no holes, rips or tears), and securely fastened or tied down in a manner that will also prevent the loss of fruit, leaves, stems, branches and plant debris while in transit.
 - iv. Vehicles from quarantined areas must be given top priority for loading, transport, and unloading.
 - v. Vehicles must be cleaned of plant debris before departing from the packinghouse or processing facility and the debris must be disposed of as outlined in Section f. x. below.
- f. Packinghouses or processors receiving fruit from the CG quarantined area must operate under a Compliance Agreement that stipulates all of the following:
 - i. A minimum of five Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) traps will be deployed inside and five outside of the packinghouse or processing facility and checked weekly for ACP;
 - ii. Trapping shall begin prior to harvest and continue until no more fruit from the quarantined area is sent to the facility for packing or processing;
 - iii. If an ACP is found, it must be reported to State Department of Agriculture regulatory officials immediately.
 - iv. All leaves, stems, branches, and debris that are attached to, or associated with, fruit shipments will be collected and safeguarded at the packing facility.
 - v. Vehicles from quarantined areas must be given top priority for handling, processing, and packing.
 - vi. Fruit arriving at a processing or packing facility from quarantined areas will be segregated from other fruit before processing and/or packing and given top priority for processing and/or packing.
 - vii. Fruit must undergo standard industry packing house procedures such as washing,

- brushing, disinfecting, treatment, and waxing.
- viii. After shipments are emptied at the processing plant or packinghouse, trailers, tarpaulins, field boxes, field bins, and packing equipment must be cleaned of all leaves, stems, branches and other plant debris.
 - ix. All leaves, stems, branches, and plant debris must be collected continuously as they accumulate and be safeguarded.
 - x. All leaves, stems, branches, and other plant debris cleaned from trailers, field boxes, field bins, and packing equipment, and/or associated with fruits destined for processing (i.e. juice extraction, livestock feed preparation) must be handled and solarized as follows:
 - Placed in black plastic trash bags and sealed in the bag as soon as collected; and
 - Sealed bags must be exposed to solar radiation for 7 days and disposed of in a landfill; or
 - Sealed bags must be exposed to solar radiation for 7 days and returned within 24 hours to the grove from which they originated for disposal.

D. Definitions:

Administrator: The Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service or any individual authorized to act for the Administrator.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

APHIS interstate movement protocol. An APHIS document entitled “Interstate Movement of Citrus and Other Rutaceous Plants for Planting from Areas Quarantined for Citrus Canker, Citrus Greening, or Asian Citrus Psyllid” that is posted on the APHIS ACP/CG website. The document is a subset of the regulations listed in 7 CFR §301.76.

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP): The insect known as Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama) in any stage of development.

7 CFR §301.76: Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7-Agriculture, Subtitle B –Regulations of the Department of Agriculture (Continued), Chapter III – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Part 301-Domestic Quarantine Notices, Subpart – Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid.

Citrus greening (CG): A plant disease, also commonly referred to as Huanglongbing disease of citrus, that is caused by several strains of the uncultured, phloem-limited bacterial pathogen ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*’.

Compliance Agreement: A written agreement between APHIS and a person engaged in growing, maintaining, processing, handling, packing, or moving regulated or associated articles, for interstate movement wherein the person agrees to comply with stipulations set forth in the agreement. The compliance agreement may be cancelled orally or in writing by an inspector if

the inspector finds that the person who entered into the compliance agreement has failed to comply with all of the requirements of the CG regulations and this Federal Order.

Inspector: Any employee of APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or other person authorized by the Administrator to perform the duties required under the CG regulations and this Federal Order.

Interstate: From any State into or through any other State.

Moved (move, movement): Shipped, offered for shipment, received for transportation, transported, carried, or allowed to be moved, shipped, transported, or carried.

Person: Any association, company, corporation, firm, individual, joint stock company, partnership, society, or other entity.

Quarantined area: Any State or portion of a State designated as a quarantined area for citrus greening in accordance with the CG regulations and this Federal Order.

Nursery stock: Any plants or plant parts, excluding fruit, intended to be planted, to remain planted, or to be replanted. Nursery stock includes, but is not limited to, trees, shrubs, cuttings, grafts, scions, and buds.

Regulated article: Any article listed in the CG regulations and this Federal Order or otherwise designated as a CG regulated article.

State: The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, or any State, territory, or possession of the United States.