

# Protecting Bee Health



While most people associate bees with honey, bees also play a valuable role in our state's agricultural community. Bees pollinate California crops that feed people in California and all over the world, and they also help maintain healthy backyard landscapes.

Unfortunately, some beekeepers are reporting significant bee losses which could be due to a myriad of factors, from parasitic mites to weather, viruses, bacterial diseases, poor nutritional health, a lack of genetic diversity in bees and pesticides. A 2012 study released by the United States Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says stress on hives is the reason for bee decline, and that several factors are contributing. There is no one cause for the problem, according to the study.

## Fighting the Asian Citrus Psyllid While Protecting Bees

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is committed to protecting bees and other pollinators while also protecting citrus trees from the Asian citrus psyllid, which can carry an incurable disease that kills citrus trees. When treating for the psyllid, agriculture officials:

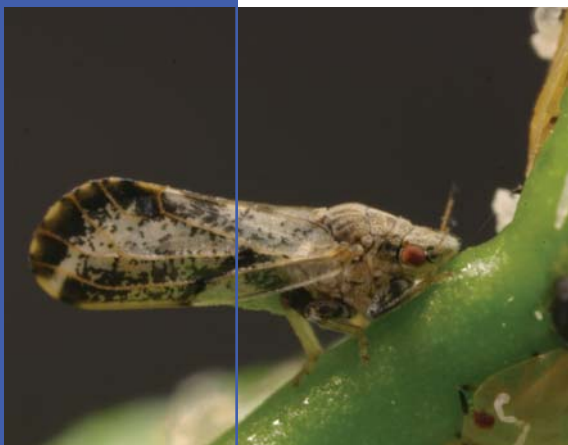
- \* Only use products approved by the EPA and California Department of Pesticide Regulation.
- \* Follow stringent regulatory safeguards to ensure no crop protection products pose an unacceptable risk to plant or animal life.
- \* Apply treatments safely according to label instructions and at very low pressure by hand.
- \* Communicate with local area beekeepers and employ spotters to locate bees and mitigate hazards.
- \* Notify residents of treatment plans in advance, and hold open houses for residents to learn more.

You also play an important role in protecting local citrus trees from the Asian citrus psyllid and the fatal citrus disease it can spread. Call **800-491-1899** if you think you've seen the Asian citrus psyllid on your trees.

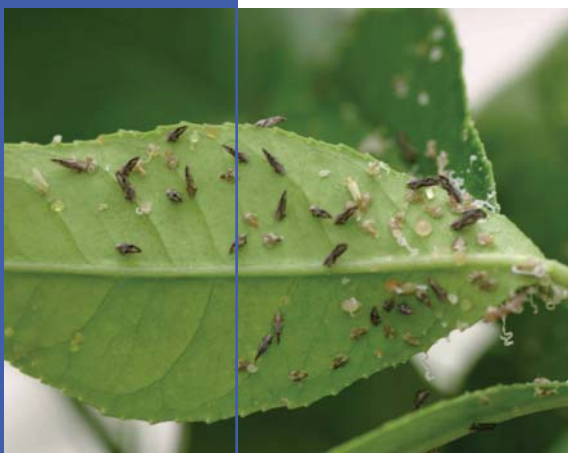


**CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org**

Be prepared,  
know what  
to look for:



Adult Asian citrus psyllid –  
1/8th of an inch long



Psyllids on leaves



HLB leaf symptoms can  
produce unique yellow  
mottling which is not the  
same on both sides of  
the leaf.

## Help Save California Citrus

**The Asian citrus psyllid** threatens all citrus trees in California. It can transmit a deadly plant disease called Huanglongbing or HLB as it feeds. There is no cure and trees infected with HLB will die. The best way to protect citrus trees from the disease is to find and stop the Asian citrus psyllid. The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program offers the following tips:

- **Inspect your trees.** Each month, or when watering, spraying or pruning trees, look for the Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing disease.
- **Do not move citrus.** Refrain from bringing citrus fruit or plants into the area from other parts of Southern California or from other states or countries, because it could accidentally be carrying the pest or disease.
- **Cooperate with agricultural inspectors.** Since the pest and disease are hard to detect and remove, agricultural inspectors may ask to inspect or treat your citrus trees.
- **Buy local.** Only purchase citrus trees from reputable nurseries in your area to ensure you're buying a healthy tree.
- **Graft with care.** Use only registered budwood with source documentation when grafting citrus trees.
- **Report suspicious insects or diseases.** Call the California Department of Food and Agriculture hotline at **800-491-1899** if you think you've found the psyllid or disease.



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