

CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 1, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	Jim Gorden	Rod Radtke
Kevin Ball	Mark McBroom	Gregorio Rundini
Aaron Dillon	Jared Plumlee	Roger Smith
John C. Gless	Dr. Etienne Rabe	Keith Watkins

Committee Members Absent:

Franco Bernardi	Bob Felts Jr.	Nick Hill
Brad Carmen	John Gless	

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Victoria Hornbaker	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi		

Guests:

Price Adams	Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Georgios Vidalakis
Natalie DeAngelo	Mia Neunzig	

Opening Comments

Mark McBroom called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mark McBroom welcomed the committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person. There was a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

REVIEW SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (SAP) REPORT

The Committee reviewed each recommendation from the SAP report and determined next steps for each recommendation. Based on the discussions held on each of the SAP recommendations, work plans were developed to serve as a guide for the immediate next steps or actions to be taken on each of the recommendations. Tactical leads were assigned and will be responsible for working with various parties to identify any regulatory requirements or implications, any new processes or standard operating procedures that may need to be established, budget implications and more.

Adjusting the Risk-Based Survey (RBS) Model Strategy in California – Residential and Commercial

Victoria Hornbaker will be the tactical lead for exploring changes to the risk-based survey and will report out at a joint Science and Operations Subcommittee meeting by February 2023.

***Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) Genotypes**

Lucita Kumagai will provide to the Committee at the January 11, 2023, meeting to further explain what work has been done thus far on genotyping on CLas.

- Lack of understanding of vector and pathogen diversity (genotypic and phenotypic) limits the understanding of HLB spread in California and could prevent success of the program. If genetic variants exist, as evidence suggests, understanding the biological implications of this variation should guide survey and response efforts.

Greatly Increase Commercial Citrus Testing and Re-evaluate Response to CLas+ Plant Material

The Committee agreed to table the discussion until sampling procedures and processes are reviewed and validated.

- Jim Gorden and Etienne Rabe will be the tactical leads to explore the data analysis needed to determine the maximum number of leaf samples that can be combined to detect CLas, and the sampling procedures adjusted for this new approach. They will form a working group and report out to the Science Subcommittee.
- Outreach will continue to encourage growers in Southern California to voluntarily submit additional leaf samples for testing, beyond the RBS or grove surveys currently conducted.

Develop a Clear Response Plan to HLB Detections

John C. Gless will be the tactical lead and will establish a working group to review the current response plan. The working group will report out to the Operations Subcommittee.

- Outreach efforts should be explored to develop more detailed information on what will happen when CLas detection occurs in a commercial orchard.

Maximizing Psyllid Surveying and Suppression (Central/Northern California Focus)

Recognizing that ACP traps are not highly effective in detecting ACP in commercial citrus, Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) will be the tactical lead to develop a campaign to engage pest control advisors and scouts to conduct visual surveys for ACP.

Testing Non-Messy ACP Traps

Victoria is the tactical lead. CDFA is currently conducting a trap comparison and will report out to the Science Subcommittee.

Continue to Support and Promote Coordinated Large Area Treatment for Psyllids

No action needed for now, as these activities are currently happening.

Examine Treatment Areas in the Central and Northern Districts

Victoria is the tactical lead. She and the CDFA team will develop a spreadsheet to include the current response areas and bring it to the next Operations Subcommittee meeting to discuss the feasibility of harmonizing the delimitation areas for ACP in the Central Valley to the same area used in Southern California.

Review and ACP/HLB Action Plan

CDFA will conduct a quarterly review of the action plan to update sampling and response strategies for when CLas+ trees or CLas+ ACP are found in residential and commercial citrus.

Address Nursery Issues to Prevent the Spread of ACP and HLB

Aaron Dillon is the tactical lead for this recommendation. He will establish a working group that includes industry, retail businesses, and regulators to review various nursery related issues, including:

- Developing a risk reduction strategy for retail locations within quarantine areas.
 - The program should develop a protocol that supports availability of disease-free and insecticide-protected nursery material within HLB quarantine regions, to make available residential retail nursery trees in those regions, and to discourage citrus plant acquisitions from outside sources.
- Ensure risk assessments are consistent between risk assessment team.
- Work with USDA to revise the pesticide application period to reflect the most recent science regarding nursery tree uptake and retention time.

Conduct a Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Outreach

NST will conduct broad quantitative and qualitative analyses of outreach trends and successful tactics targeting a range of key audiences and report out to Outreach Subcommittee.

- As a result, suggest changes in outreach strategies and reprioritization.
- Shift toward proactive outreach strategies instead of reactive.

Continue Coordination of Outreach Efforts Between the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program, University of California (UC) and other entities.

NST will conduct regular strategy sessions to proactively expand outreach in response to changes in the program and regularly report information to the Outreach Subcommittee.

Harmonization and Coordination of Data Collection and Management

Victoria will develop a flow chart of the current program activities by region. This will be

reviewed by the Executive Committee and a revised flow chart will be developed to lay out suggested revisions to the organization of the program.

Increase Coordination and Data Sharing

Victoria and staff will convene entities to discuss roles and responsibilities and potential collaborations.

- This coordination should trickle down to methods for data collection, data analysis and sharing, and ultimately replace redundancy with complementarity, where relevant.
- Integrate various survey data from different “groups” (i.e., CDFA, CRB, CCTEA). Better coordination and data integration should be explored as it will allow efficient monitoring and enrich the data that is driving the risk models and other tactics.
- Harmonize data collection methods as it relates to CLas (HLB) and ACP management.
Coordinate data storage and sharing as it relates to activities surrounding HLB management.

Formulate a New Set of Questions for an SAP

NST and the Executive Committee will develop a set of questions focused on the current situation and looking forward 5 years. The results of the questions will likely define new or greatly modified the approaches that CPDPC will implement to keep pace with the changes in the HLB infestation in California.

Create a Standing Technical Group of Experts

Victoria will assemble a group of experts, not directly affiliated with the CPDPP, that meet periodically to review the program from an outside perspective.

Regulatory Issues

Keith Okasaki and Etienne Rabe will assemble a working group composed of stakeholders and regulatory experts to identify more clearly where the interface of CPDPP surveillance and response actions is creating difficulties, and to determine if there are resolutions that can be implemented to minimize the impacts of regulatory issues.

- Keith will review compliance agreements to improve educational components.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.