What to Expect when CDFA is Inspecting, Trapping and Treating
In Response to a Confirmed Positive Huanglongbing Detection

Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening is caused by bacteria (Candidatus Liberibacter spp.) which can be transferred to plants in the citrus family (Rutaceae) by an infected Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) (adult or nymph). HLB-infected trees bear small, asymmetrical fruit which are partially green, bitter and inedible. Once infected, the tree will decline in health and die. HLB is considered to be one of the most serious plant diseases in the world and currently there is no cure.

As a resident in the community near an HLB confirmed find you can expect to see California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) and County Department of Agriculture staff (County) surveying citrus trees in the area, placing and servicing ACP traps, conducting insecticidal treatments to control ACP populations and removing confirmed HLB diseased trees.

Due to the serious nature of this pest and disease, you can expect these activities to be ongoing for many years. Your cooperation with the program will help to protect your citrus trees, your neighbor’s trees and those of your entire community.

The CDFA, Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services has authority under the Food and Agricultural Code and the California Code of Regulations to inspect, treat for and eradicate invasive pests and diseases that cause harm to plants. Activities associated with a confirmed HLB tree find will be mandatory.

All activities associated with this project are offered free of charge to residents in the project area. CDFA staff or others associated with the program will never ask for money for any activities being conducted.

Activities that CDFA may conduct on your property:

1. Visual Survey and Sample Collection
   - Every property within 800 meters of the initial find will be surveyed for HLB host plants.
     - Host plants include all citrus varieties and hybrids, including kumquat, mandarin, grapefruit, orange, lemon and lime; also including closely related plants like curry leaf and ornamental orange-jasmine.
     - Surveyor will make contact with the property owner to request access to the yard.
       - Surveyors may work alone or in pairs.
       - Surveyor will never ask to enter your home.
       - Surveyor will be identified by a CDFA issued identification badge and/or a uniform shirt that clearly identifies the surveyor with a patch or with the words “Department of Agriculture” or “State Agriculture.”
       - If the property owner is not home, the surveyor will return at a later time to initiate contact.
       - If trees are in the front yard and unfenced, the surveyor will conduct the survey of the trees which are accessible.
   - The surveyor will collect leaf samples, approximately 20 leaves from each host plant on the property and any life stages of the ACP that they find.
   - All samples are bagged and shipped to the CDFA Laboratory in Sacramento California for analysis.
• If the sample is confirmed positive for the HLB disease, the resident will be notified.

2. Detection Survey
• The resident may be asked to allow CDFA or County staff to place a trap for ACP in their tree.
• If the tree is in an unfenced area, traps may be placed without making contact with the property owner. (If a trap is placed a note will be left for the homeowner)
• The trap used for ACP detection is the yellow panel trap, which is 6” x 9” paper panel coated with sticky glue to catch adult ACP. The glue does not drip onto the tree or the ground.
  o ACP becomes entangled on the sticky glue and cannot fly away.
  o Traps DO NOT contain pesticides and are not dangerous to children or pets.
• Traps will be periodically reinspected by agricultural inspector or surveyor.

3. ACP Suppression
The ACP is a very small insect, about the size of an aphid; it is the vector for the deadly citrus disease, HLB. It is important to reduce the ACP population to help prevent the spread of the HLB disease. In any area where ACP and HLB have been detected, CDFA will conduct residential treatments to suppress ACP populations.
The treatment protocol consists treating only ACP host plants with both a foliar and a systemic insecticide. Foliar insecticides are useful for immediate reduction of the adult population in order to eliminate dispersal, while systemic insecticides are used to provide long term protection against reinfestation. The CDFA will act very quickly in these emergency situations to suppress ACP populations, because the ACP can carry the HLB disease.

- An open house public meeting will be held prior to initiating any treatment activities in the area.
  - Residents will be notified about the public meeting via mailed or hand-delivered invitations to attend, generally 3-4 days prior to the meeting.
  - Host plants on the find site and adjacent properties may be treated with homeowner permission prior to the public meeting.

- Treatment notices will be hand-delivered to each residential property in the treatment area 48-hours prior to treatment.

- CDFA staff will work with the resident to address special concerns and will schedule appointments for treatment dates and times if requested.

- Residents do not have to be present for the treatment.

- If not present, the resident is asked to leave gates unlocked and to secure pets on the date indicated on the treatment notice.

- CDFA will conduct an insecticide application that consists of two commercially available insecticides; Cyfluthrin (Tempo) and Imidacloprid (either Merit or CoreTect). These or similar products are available for purchase at most home and garden centers. A health questions and answers for both pesticides is available on the CDFA ACP/HLB website http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/index.html

- Foliar Treatment

  Tempo® SC Ultra (cyfluthrin) is a pyrethroid contact insecticide. Treatment will initially occur once and subsequent applications may occur for up to six times annually if additional psyllids are detected. This material will be applied to the foliage of all host plants using hydraulic spray or hand spray equipment.
Soil Treatment

A systemic soil application will be made using either Merit® 2F or CoreTect™.

- Merit® 2F (imidacloprid), is a neonicotinoid systemic insecticide. Treatment will initially occur once and a subsequent application may occur annually if additional psyllids are detected. This material will be applied to the soil within the root zone of host plants.

- CoreTect™ (imidacloprid) is a neonicotinoid systemic insecticide. It is used in place of Merit® 2F in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of the liquid Merit® 2F formulation, such as host plants growing next to ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas. Treatment will initially occur once and a subsequent application may occur annually if additional psyllids are detected. This material is a pelletized tablet and is inserted into the soil and watered in within the root zone of host plants.

CDFA will leave a post treatment notice once they have completed the application.

This will include information about the treatment, which pesticides were used and directions about safe consumption of residential fruit.
4. Response to HLB Positive Tree
   - A tree that is confirmed by CDFA as positive for the bacteria that causes HLB will decline in health and die.
     - It might appear healthy now, but the disease is damaging the trees vascular system and causing the tree to starve for nutrients.
     - The diseased tree is considered a nuisance as it poses a threat to citrus trees in the surrounding community.
   - There is no cure for HLB and all confirmed positive trees must be removed.
     - CDFA will seek permission from the property owner to remove and dispose of the diseased tree.
     - CDFA will take great care with the residential property while conducting the tree removal.
   - If the resident is unwilling to allow the removal of the diseased tree. CDFA will use their authority to abate the nuisance and remove the tree.

A hold notice will be issued to the property owner where an HLB positive tree has been confirmed.

- It will restrict the movement of any citrus plant or cuttings from the property.
- This is done to prevent the potential movement of HLB exposed plants.
5. CDFA Authority

- The CDFA, Division of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services has authority under the Food and Agricultural Code and the California Code of Regulations to inspect, treat for and eradicate invasive pests and diseases that cause harm to plants.
- Due to the serious nature of this disease, activities associated with an HLB confirmed find will be mandatory.

- An abatement letter will be issued to any property owner that refuses survey, treatment or tree removal.
- An abatement letter may also be issued to no contact properties.
- The abatement letter will give a contact number and a time and date to respond by.
- If the property owner makes contact, the program will work with them to schedule program activities.
- If the property owner does not respond to the program, a warrant will be issued and the program activities will be conducted.