



Public Service Announcement on the Asian Citrus Psyllid

[\[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/video.html\]](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/video.html)

Captions:

- Imagine - - No California oranges in our future.
- The Asian citrus psyllid -- an insect pest -- if allowed to invade California, could spread a serious plant disease that would devastate citrus trees in this state.
- The disease -- called Huanglongbing or yellow shoot disease -- infects leaves, makes oranges bitter and inedible and eventually sickens and kills citrus trees.
- Spread by this pest, the disease first appeared in two counties in Florida -- six months later it was found in twelve counties.
- It continued to spread.
- In less than 17 months it had infected trees in 24 counties.
- In just over two years it had covered 30 counties in Florida -- their entire citrus-producing region.
- Despite a valiant effort by Florida agricultural authorities -- it spread like wildfire.
- Today it is found in 32 counties in Florida.
- This series of maps shows how 800 acres of citrus groves were rapidly infected and weakened in just over a two-year period.
- But if the insect is not present, the disease cannot spread.
- Throughout California, field officers of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Agricultural Commissioners are trapping, surveying, carefully inspecting citrus trees and sweep-netting to help exclude this insect and the terrible disease it can transmit to healthy plants.
- Preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive species -- *like the Asian citrus psyllid* -- is always the best and least costly method of control.