

DETECTION OF CITRUS DISEASE HUANGLONGBING TRIGGERS QUARANTINE EXPANSION IN PORTIONS OF SAN BERNARDINO AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES

SACRAMENTO – November 22, 2019 – A quarantine has been declared following the detection of the citrus disease Huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening, in a single citrus tree in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County, near Montclair. This is the first time the plant disease has been detected in San Bernardino County. CDFA is working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County agricultural commissioners on this project.

The 93-square mile quarantine area will link up with existing quarantines in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, creating a contiguous 1,015-square-mile area. The new portion is bordered on the north by I-210; on the south by Chino Airport; on the west by Highway 57; and on the east by Ontario International Airport. HLB quarantine maps for San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties are available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/hlb/regulation.html>. Please check this link for future quarantine expansions in these counties, should they occur. Quarantines are already in place for HLB in portions of Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties.

The quarantine prohibits the movement of all citrus nursery stock or plant parts out of the quarantine area. Provisions exist to allow the movement of commercially cleaned and packed citrus fruit. Fruit that is not commercially cleaned and packed, including residential citrus, such as oranges, lemons, grapefruits, and kumquats, must not be moved from the property on which it is grown, although it may be processed and/or consumed on the premises.

Residents are urged to take several steps to help protect citrus trees:

- Do not move citrus plants, leaves, or foliage into or out of the quarantine area or across state or international borders. Keep it local.
- Cooperate with agricultural officials placing traps, inspecting trees, and treating for the pest.
- If you no longer wish to care for your citrus tree, consider removing it so it does not become a host to the pest and disease.

HLB is a bacterial disease that affects the vascular system of citrus trees and plants. It does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria as the pest feeds on citrus trees and plants. Once a tree is infected, there is no cure; the tree will produce bitter and misshaped fruit and die within a few years.

CDFA staff have scheduled removal of the infected tree and are in the midst of a treatment program for citrus trees to knock down Asian citrus psyllid infestations within 400 meters of the find site. By taking this action, a critical reservoir of the disease and its vectors will be removed, which is essential to protect surrounding citrus from this

deadly disease.

CDFA, in partnership with the USDA, local county agricultural commissioners, and the citrus industry, continues to pursue a strategy of controlling the spread of the Asian citrus psyllids while researchers work to find a cure for the disease.

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Information regarding the Huanglongbing (HLB) detection in the unincorporated area of Montclair near the San Bernardino and Los Angeles County line

Huanglongbing, or Citrus greening, can be difficult to detect because the host may not show symptoms for months to years. The early symptom of the disease is a blotchy, yellow, asymmetric mottling of the leaves that crosses leaf veins (see photos).



The leaf symptoms are different from nutritional disorders which usually follow patterns along the leaf veins and tend to be more symmetric in their pattern. The yellow mottling of the leaves leads to yellowing on single random branches (nutritional disorders are usually more uniform throughout the tree). Huanglongbing (HLB) also does not cause leaf wilting like other citrus diseases. More advanced symptoms include twig dieback, stunting and decline in the tree's health to the point where the tree bears only a few, small, deformed (lop-sided) fruits that are poorly colored and bitter tasting. There is no treatment or cure and tree death usually occurs several months to years after infection.



The HLB pathogen is moved from tree to tree by Asian Citrus Psyllids (ACP) feeding on an infected tree then moving to and feeding on a non-infected tree. While ACP insects are the primary means of disease spread, the movement of infected host plant material in the form of nursery stock or of plant materials for grafting can also contribute significantly to the rapid and potentially long-distance spread of the disease.

How will this HLB detection effect the residents inside the Quarantine area?

Now that the disease has been found in San Bernardino County, it is extremely important that residents cooperate with agriculture officials and allow them to access your property to look for the disease. Homeowners should search for symptoms of Huanglongbing in their own backyard citrus trees and report any suspicious symptoms immediately to CDFA.

The quarantine that has just been put into place ***prohibits the sale of all host citrus plants from stores and Nurseries and prohibits the movement of all host plants and citrus fruits within a five-mile radius of the find.*** This quarantine applies to residents and commercial operations alike. Production nurseries within the five-mile quarantine will be contacted shortly by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) personnel who will be issuing a *hold notice preventing the sale of nursery stock host plants.*

Homeowners are not allowed to let any of their citrus leave their property, even to give to family or friends to consume elsewhere. It can only be consumed on the property where it was grown or it can be processed or juiced. **It is critical that residents inside the HLB Quarantine not move citrus into or out of their area.** Only buy trees from reputable, licensed California nurseries and talk to a local home and garden center about products that can protect against the Asian Citrus Psyllid. When performing yard care, all citrus owners need to make sure to dry out or double bag plant clippings prior to disposal and those who use a landscaping service must make sure those employees follow the same rules.

It is important to note that *HLB is not harmful to humans or animals,* but it is fatal for citrus trees and HLB infected trees need to be removed to protect other trees in the community as well as the state's vibrant commercial citrus industry. If someone has citrus that they can no longer care for, or no longer wish to have on their property, it is highly recommended that they remove it immediately in order to prevent it from becoming a host to the psyllid or HLB.

Homeowners throughout the County are encouraged to call the CDFA hotline to report possible HLB disease symptoms: 1-800-491-1899.

The following links provide extremely useful information:

HLB Quarantine information

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/hlb/docs/3439-TXT-HLB.pdf>

CDFA Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) / Huanglongbing main website

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/index.html>

Interactive Website for Asian Citrus Psyllid Management (for Growers and Homeowners) from UCANR

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/acp/>

Save Our Citrus website

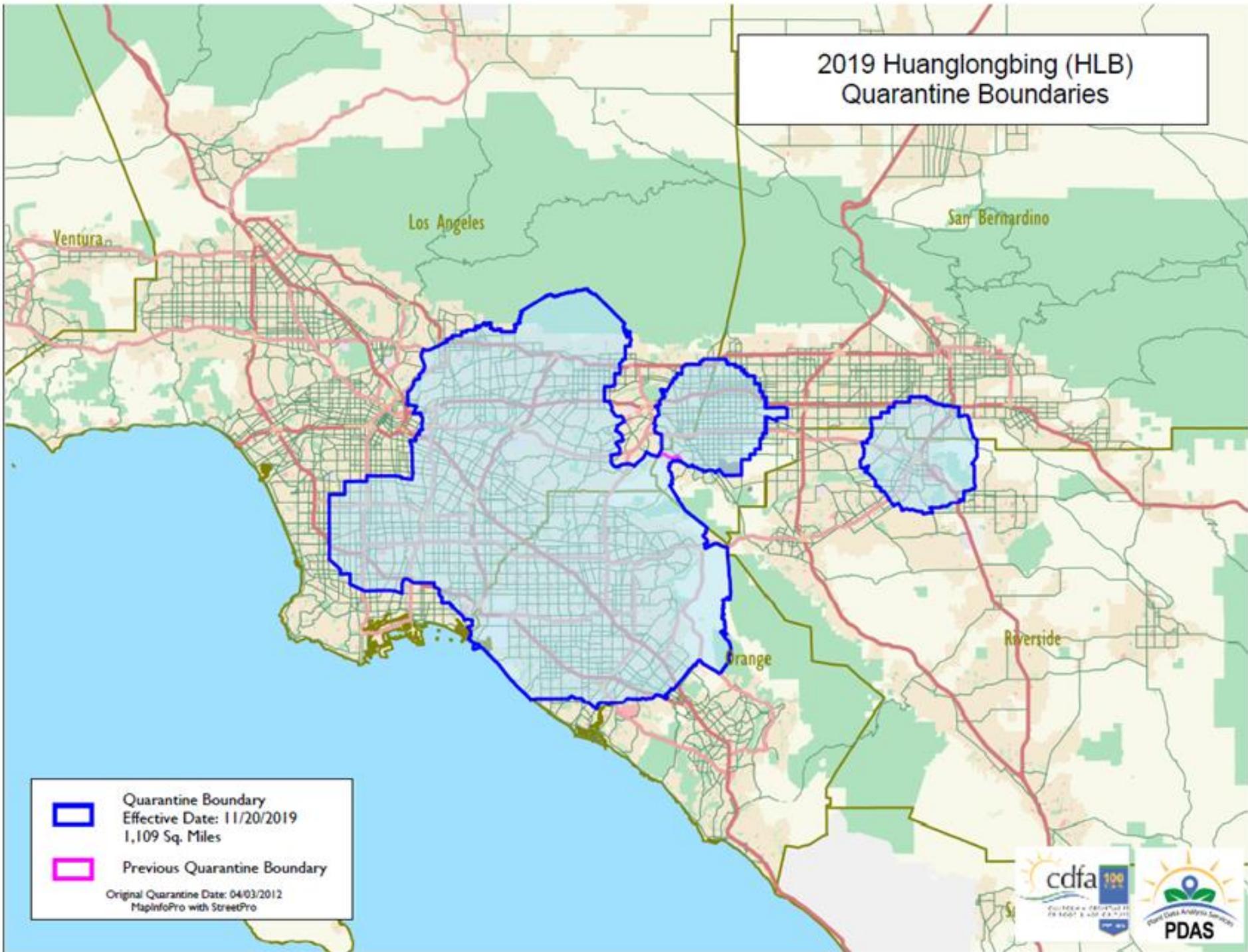
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/save-our-citrus>

Citrus Disease- Leaf Diagnosis

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/save-our-citrus/soc-citrus-diseases/soc-leaf-diagnosis>

Additionally, because citrus diseases have destroyed millions of acres of citrus around the world, they present an immediate and urgent threat to America. If someone knowingly purchases citrus in violation of quarantine regulations and requirements, the penalties can range from \$1,100 to \$60,000 *per violation*. If someone suspects citrus is being moved improperly, they should report it to USDA's Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance toll-free hotline at (800) 877-3835.

2019 Huanglongbing (HLB) Quarantine Boundaries



 Quarantine Boundary
Effective Date: 11/20/2019
1,109 Sq. Miles

 Previous Quarantine Boundary
Original Quarantine Date: 04/03/2012
MapInfoPro with StreetPro

