

## Valley Center Citrus Quarantine Information

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have confirmed the detection of the citrus disease known as [Huanglongbing](#) (HLB) in Valley Center. This is the third quarantine area in the county.

The County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM) issued a [press release](#) and [flyer](#) following the detection and announcement of quarantine. AWM helps protect California citrus by ensuring consumers, home gardeners, and agricultural producers comply with laws and regulations, including quarantines, to prevent entry and limit the spread of pests and plant diseases in the county.

HLB is spread by the [Asian citrus psyllid](#) (ACP) a tiny insect that may transmit the bacteria from citrus tree to citrus tree as they feed on new growth. The bacteria cause HLB, deadly to citrus and has no cure but not harmful to other plants, animals, or people.

- The disease was detected in plant material samples collected during a routine state survey for HLB.
- The infected trees must be treated and removed. CDFA is preparing to conduct mandatory surveying and treatment of residential host plants within 250-meters of the find site. Taking these steps will remove a critical reservoir of the disease and vectors that can spread the disease, an essential tactic in protecting nearby citrus.
- Any plant samples positive for HLB enact a 5-mile quarantine area. An HLB detection in any property (commercial or residential) initiates additional requirements.
- Commercial citrus operations (growers, packers, shippers, transporters, and fruit sellers) within the quarantine area will need an HLB Compliance Agreement issued by CDFA, and must follow Spray and Harvest procedures to move citrus fruit.
- Visit [CitrusInsider](#) and [CaliforniaCitrusThreat](#) for more information.

## Information for Industry Members

- CDFA staff is in contact with the property owner to ensure the infected trees will be properly removed and disposed of, in addition to ensuring a treatment program is properly in place to treat all citrus trees within 250-meters of the detections.
- CDFA crews are preparing to conduct mandatory surveying and treatment of all residential host plants within 250-meters of the find site. By taking these steps, a critical reservoir of the disease and its vectors will be removed, which is essential to protect the surrounding citrus from this deadly disease.
- These detections establish a mandatory HLB quarantine area with a five-mile radius around the find site. The quarantine prohibits the movement of all host nursery stock, host plants and plant parts within a five-mile radius of the find site. Fruit grown in the area must undergo additional mitigation step(s) before it can be transported into or out of this area. This quarantine applies to residents and commercial operations alike.
- Production and retail nurseries within the five-mile quarantine will be contacted shortly by CDFA and will be issued a hold notice preventing the sale of nursery stock host plants.
- These detections will also place additional parts of San Diego County into Bulk Citrus Regional Quarantine Zone 6, which will require any commercial citrus growers in the area to apply additional mitigation step(s) prior to citrus being transported into or out of the HLB

quarantine. Visit [CitrusInsider's](#) Map and Quarantines page for more details.

- All citrus growers, packers, transporters, and fruit sellers in the county must have an ACP Compliance Agreement from AWM to move any citrus fruit (contact [CQP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CQP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov)).
- Commercial citrus growers may contact San Diego County Citrus Pest Control District at 951-334-7611 or CDFA Grower Liaison Sandra Zwaal at [szwaal2@gmail.com](mailto:szwaal2@gmail.com) for more information.
- The interactive citrus quarantine map can be used to determine if you are inside the quarantine: [Active Regional Quarantines Web Application](#).
- [Directions to use interactive map](#)

### Information for Residents

- The infected trees will be treated and removed, and agriculture officials are moving swiftly on mandatory surveying and treatments within a 250-meter area of the find site. Taking these steps will remove a critical reservoir of the disease and vectors that can spread the disease, an essential tactic in protecting nearby citrus.
- These detections establish a mandatory HLB quarantine area with a five-mile radius around the find site. The quarantine prohibits residents and commercial operations from moving any host plants or plant parts within a five-mile radius, and fruit grown in the area must undergo additional mitigation step(s) before it can be transported into or out of this area.
- An HLB quarantine area currently exists in parts of San Diego County in the Oceanside and Rancho Bernardo areas in addition to parts of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties, where more than 6,700 trees have tested positive for the disease and been removed, since 2012.
- It is a critical time for homeowners to protect their backyard citrus trees by searching for symptoms of Huanglongbing, also known as HLB or citrus greening disease, and reporting any suspicious symptoms immediately to the California Department of Food and Agriculture at 1-800-491-1899 or the local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.
- Residents should cooperate with agriculture officials – allow them to access your property to survey citrus trees and take samples to look for the disease.
- HLB infected trees need to be removed to protect other trees, the community's citrus, and the state's vibrant commercial citrus industry.
- If you have citrus that is not cared for, consider removing it in order to prevent it from becoming a host to the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) or HLB.
- The ACP – the insect that spreads the disease – is similar in size to an aphid. Adults are brown, about 1/8th of an inch long, and feed with their bodies at a 45-degree angle.
- Symptoms of HLB include blotchy, yellowing of leaves; yellow shoots; lopsided, small and rancid-tasting fruit; and premature and excessive fruit drop.
- HLB is not harmful to humans or animals, but it is fatal for citrus trees.
- There is no cure for HLB. When a tree is infected, it will die.

- If you notice symptoms on your citrus trees or would like more information, please contact the CDFA Report-a-Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899.
- Visit [CaliforniaCitrusThreat](#) for more information.

### **Valley Center Citrus Meeting and HLB Quarantine Update**

On 12/28/2023 CDFA, the San Diego County Grower Liaison and AWM hosted a meeting for citrus growers within the Valley Center HLB quarantine area. Presentations from this meeting can be found here:

- [Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program: Overview of ACP/HLB](#)
- [CDFA: HLB Delimitation Update](#)
- [CDFA: Establishing an HLB Quarantine & Info for Nursery Owners](#)
- [AWM: Bulk Citrus Movement and Pesticide Use Needs in the HLB quarantine](#)