



Gulf Coast Citrus Greening Quarantine

In October 2019, Brazoria and Galveston counties were included in the expansion of the Upper Gulf Coast citrus greening quarantine to prevent and slow the spread of this disease in Texas. The disease exists throughout the world; in the US, it was first detected in Florida in 2005 and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in 2012. Fort Bend, Harris, and Montgomery counties have been under this quarantine since 2016.

What is citrus greening?

Citrus greening (CG), also known as Huanglongbing (HLB), is a bacterial disease that infects citrus. It is spread by an insect, the Asian citrus psyllid. There is no known cure for HLB. In the US, the disease has resulted in an approximate 72% decline in juice-orange fruit production and about a 21% decline in the fresh citrus market.

What do I look for?

A tree infected by citrus greening may have:

Asian citrus psyllid

- Adult is about the size of a toothpick tip (about 3mm) and has a distinctive 45-degree angled posture when present on leaves.
- Nymphs are smaller and yellow-orange. They feed on new growth and secrete a waxy substance (red arrows).



Photo credit: N.Hummel, LSU AgCenter, bugwood.org



Leaves and branches

- Leaves are blotchy, mottled, and yellowed.
- Leaves may have raised veins with a corky appearance.

Fruit

- Fruit tastes bitter but poses no health problems to humans.
- Fruit may be stunted or lopsided, remain green or partially green, and fall prematurely from the tree.



Examples of abnormal fruit found in Florida.

Citrus plants purchased in the quarantined area MUST STAY in the quarantined area.

To learn more about citrus greening and other citrus-related quarantines, visit <http://bit.ly/GCCitrus>.