



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Agriculture to Step Up Citrus Pest Detection Activities

Beginning this month, Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) inspectors will expand their ongoing state-wide survey for the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) in response to the recent ACP detection just 1.5 miles south of San Luis, Arizona in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico.

Uniformed inspection crews will be working throughout Yuma County for the next several months surveying residential and commercial groves for the ACP. ADA has been conducting this type of survey for the ACP in the county for several years with no detections. Survey crews will be visiting with county residents about the pest, and asking for permission to survey properties throughout the high risk areas of the county. Sticky traps, similar to fly paper that contains no insecticides, will also be placed to further help detect this serious pest.

The pest is of grave concern because it can carry the disease Huanglongbing (HLB); more commonly known as citrus greening. All citrus and closely related species are susceptible hosts for both

the insect and the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health until it dies. Neither ACP nor HLB has been detected in Arizona.

The state of Florida first detected the pest in 1998 and the disease in 2005, and the two have now been detected in all 30 citrus producing counties in that state. The pest and the disease are also present in Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. The states of California, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama have detected the pest but not the disease.

Questions about the survey can be directed to the Arizona Department of Agriculture at 602-542-0950. Additional information about the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Greening can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus_greening/index.shtml.

If you have any other questions or concerns about the Asian Citrus Psyllid and how it might affect you please contact Laura Oxley at (602) 542-1094