

HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Public Safety & Health

“Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing”

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What is it?

It is a small aphid-like insect that feeds on new citrus leaves. The feeding process on the new leaf causes burnt tip and twisting of the new leaves. This process spreads a bacterium that causes “Huanglongbing”, a citrus greening disease or yellow shoot disease. The disease spreads through psyllids and through grafting with infected branches. The fruit becomes warped, leaves yellowed and ultimately destroys the tree.

History

On March 30, 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of this bacterial agent (HLB) in the community of Hacienda Heights, Los Angeles County. The isolated infestation of an 800 meter radius (along the Gale Avenue corridor) is being addressed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and insect vectors. The infestation of the Asian Citrus Psyllid has taken two years to monitor. Unfortunately, in these two years, the City of La Puente has also been affected possibly through the sharing of citrus fruit or grafting. Community meetings have been held twice in the City of Industry and once in La Puente Public Library to educate the communities as well as through press releases.

Action taken for prevention.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has evaluated possible methods of treatment in eliminating the Asian Citrus Psyllid and determined there is no natural biological controls method to do so. Instead, there will be insecticides to control the ACP adults and nymphs called cyfluthrin. This method will be applied from the ground through hydraulic spray to the foliage of the host plant. The second method is inserting tablets into the ground called imidacloprid, followed by soaking the area beneath the host plant.

ACP Monitoring.

Following the insecticide treatment, yellow panel traps will be placed within the 800 meter radius of each detected site. They will be inspected frequently by collecting plant tissue for identification and analysis.

Public Information.

Residents of affected properties may be invited to a public meeting to express concerns and/or questions. There are many agencies involved in this matter and all will be represented to address the public. For any questions related to this program, one may contact the California Department of Food and Agriculture toll free telephone number at 800 491-1899 for assistance.