



City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Greg Wagner
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Asian Citrus Psyllid detected in San Francisco ***Agricultural officials urge community to help prevent spread of invasive insect that harms citrus plants, not humans***

SAN FRANCISCO (January 17, 2019) – Due to a recent detection of an Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), the entire zone of San Francisco County has been placed under a plant pest quarantine by state agricultural officials as of today. San Francisco Department of Public Health’s Agriculture Program is working closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to start a survey and treatment program. This plant pest quarantine is a regulatory program designed to limit the artificial movement of ACP host plants, thereby isolating the insect and prohibiting the spread of the pest. A map is available online at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/regulation.html>.

The ACP is an insect that causes harm to all citrus plants – including oranges, mandarins, lemons, kumquats, pomelos, and limes, and related plants, such as curry leaf trees. ACPs are yellowish orange and produce a white waxy substance (see images on page 3). The insect can carry the bacteria that causes the disease Huanglongbing (HLB) and can transmit the disease to host plants. While this plant disease is not harmful to humans, there is no cure once a tree becomes infected with HLB. The diseased tree will decline in health, produce bitter, misshapen fruit, and eventually die. Infected plants have blotchy or yellowing leaves and produce small and bitter fruit. Though unappetizing, citrus fruit infected with the disease is safe to eat.

“Even though San Francisco County is not a commercial citrus producing area, we all play a role in limiting the spread of this insect,” said San Francisco Agricultural Commissioner Cree Morgan. “We plan to work closely with our community and State partners to protect San Francisco’s citrus trees from this invasive pest.”

The ACP quarantine prohibits the movement of citrus and curry leaf tree nursery stock, including all plant parts except fruit, out of the quarantine area and requires that all citrus fruit be cleaned of leaves and stems prior to moving out of the quarantine area. Residents with backyard citrus trees in San Francisco are asked not to transport or send citrus fruit or leaves, potted citrus trees, or curry leaves from the quarantine area.

Agricultural officials have placed insect detection traps throughout the area where the insect was detected to determine if it is a single insect or one of a larger breeding population. The traps assist with establishing the distribution of the pest. The officials



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plan to treat citrus host plants within 50 meters of the site where the insect was trapped. State and local agricultural officials will contact residents within the treatment area in advance and plan a community outreach meeting in the district.

The pest was found in the Marina district. However, all San Francisco residents are urged to follow these steps:

- Inspect trees for suspected symptoms whenever watering, spraying, pruning, or tending trees as psyllids are most noticeable when new leaves are growing on the tips of the branches.
- Prevent further movement of ACPS in the area by not moving citrus plants, foliage, or fruit into or out of your area.
- When grafting citrus trees, only use registered budwood with accompanying source documentation, such as the budwood offered through the Citrus Clonal Protection Program.
- Dry out citrus tree clippings or double bag them before removing them from the property.
- If you think you may have seen ACP or symptoms of HLB on your trees, call CDFA's Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or our local San Francisco County Agricultural Commissioner at 415-252-3830.

Retail nurseries will be required to only sell citrus nursery stock that has been treated for ACP and tagged with a blue quarantine tree tag. Citrus fruit may only be sold at farmer's markets, flea markets, and swap meets if they are free from all stems and leaves prior to the fruit arriving at the market. All citrus fruit vendors at these markets must have a compliance agreement. Vendors without a compliance agreement must immediately contact CDFA to obtain a one.

For more information on ACP and HLB, please visit: www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/acp.



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Asian citrus psyllids feed on citrus leave and stem, and can infect treatment trees with deadly Huanglongbing disease



Asian citrus psyllids are small – no more than 1/8 of an inch long – brown, winged insects that feed on citrus tree leaves and stems