



## Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

### *Citrus Health Response Program Updates February 2008*

The Citrus Health Response Program addresses multiple citrus pests and diseases including citrus canker and citrus greening that continue to challenge Florida's citrus industry. In November 2007, the USDA published the final rule on movement of citrus fruit from Florida. And, in January 2008, the USDA expanded the citrus greening quarantine zone to include the entire state of Florida. Below, is a summary of current regulations related to the citrus industry.

#### **Citrus Growers**

- Growers must register by signing compliance agreements. New agreements have been mailed to previously registered growers, and are available by contacting Statewide CHRP offices. Components of the compliance agreements include:
  - ✓ **Submission of a business plan** is now required when submitting a compliance agreement. The business plan must describe each grower's plans for decontamination practices, self-survey, and pest management strategies for controlling citrus canker, citrus greening, and the Asian citrus psyllid.
  - ✓ **Decontamination requirements** – decontamination is only required when departing a grove. However, growers may require people to decontaminate prior to entering as an added precaution.
- Pre-harvest inspections are no longer required except for fruit destined to European Union (EU) markets.
- Growers who intend to harvest fresh fruit for export to EU markets:
  - ✓ Submit a fresh fruit *Application for Participation* (DACs #08415) identifying the blocks to be harvested, so that a fresh fruit inspection can be performed within the time frame set out by the receiving country's entry requirements.
  - ✓ If the inspection finds no canker, grower will be issued a *Citrus Fruit Harvesting Permit* (DACs #08123).
  - ✓ Harvesting permits for the EU expire on July 1st each year.

#### **Citrus Harvesters**

- Harvesters must register by signing and submitting a new compliance agreement and business plan. Packets of the new harvester/ handler forms are available on the web at: [http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/citrus\\_harvesters.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/citrus_harvesters.html), or you may contact our statewide CHRP field offices [www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi), or call the helpline at 800-282-5153.

#### **Citrus Processors**

- Citrus processors must also register by signing a new compliance agreement. A business plan is required from each processor indicating plans for decontamination of field personnel and equipment entering groves. Trailers that do not come into contact with citrus trees do not have to be decontaminated, but must be free of citrus debris upon unloading at processing facility.

#### **Citrus Packers**

- Citrus packers must sign compliance agreements with USDA that contain fruit sampling, inspection, decontamination and packing requirements. USDA CHRP offices can be found at can be found on the DOACS website at: <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/schedules/PPQltdP.pdf>

## ***Citrus Health Response Program Updates (continued)***

### **Fresh Fruit Movement**

- ***Citrus-Producing States*** - Fresh fruit movement to citrus-producing states is prohibited.
- ***Non-Citrus Producing States*** - USDA will inspect fresh fruit in packing houses and issue limited permits.
- ***Fresh Fruit Exported to other Countries*** - Fruit destined for other countries must meet the receiving country's entry requirements. Europe will accept citrus from Florida if an inspection of the grove block and immediate vicinity are free of citrus canker. Asian countries do not classify citrus canker as a quarantine pest, but the fruit must be free of citrus canker to meet basic phytosanitary requirements. Contact the Department for specific details.
- ***Fruit for Processing or Sale Within Florida*** – There are no restrictions.

### **Citrus Nursery Stock Producers**

- As of January 1, 2007 all new citrus propagations must be conducted on sites and within protective structures that have been approved by the Department.
- As of December 31, 2007, existing citrus nursery stock that was produced before January 1, 2007, but not produced within an approved structure, is no longer eligible for sale or movement in accordance with the new rules.
- All citrus nursery propagators must follow decontamination requirements and be inspected by the Department every 30 days.
- Specific requirements are contained within Rule Chapter 5B-62, Florida Administrative Code.
- In accordance with the Federal Domestic Quarantine on Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid dated 1/11/08, the following articles are prohibited from being moved interstate from areas quarantined due to citrus greening: all plants and plant parts, including but not limited to nursery stock, cuttings, budwood, and seed (but excluding fruit), of Citrus spp., Fortunella spp., Murraya spp., etc.

### **Nursery Environs Survey**

- Under the newly approved guidelines, growing citrus within one mile of a commercial citrus nursery is prohibited, unless the nursery location was grandfathered in by the Department.
- Properties (residential and commercial) within one mile of commercial citrus nurseries will be surveyed annually for citrus pests and diseases. Control measures for any detected pests or diseases will be handled on a case by case basis.

Please direct follow up questions to Mark Estes or Tomas Gonzalez at 863-298-7777, or contact our Division of Plant Industry toll-free helpline 800-282-5153. Visit [www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi) for more information.