



INFORMATION FOR NURSERIES AND GARDEN CENTERS

OVERVIEW: PEST AND DISEASE

The Asian citrus psyllid is an aphid-like insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus plants. The psyllid can carry and spread a deadly tree disease called Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening disease. While not harmful to human health, there is no cure for this disease and infected trees will die. The best way to protect California citrus from the disease is to minimize the number of psyllids and do what you can to prevent their spread to new regions.

WHAT NURSERIES AND GARDEN CENTERS CAN DO

The Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing are the biggest threats the California citrus industry has ever faced, and managing the psyllid is critical to protecting trees from the fatal plant disease. Nursery crews are an essential part of the solution, and are on the front lines when it comes to homeowner education. Inform consumers about the threat of the Asian citrus psyllid and what they can do to help (see reverse), and follow these best practices in your nursery or garden center to control the spread of the psyllid.

- **Arrange the citrus trees** in a way that encourages the sale of “older” plants first. Treatments done at the wholesale nursery are effective for upwards of three months from the time of treatment. Ensure a fast turnaround of citrus nursery stock before Asian citrus psyllid host plants become unprotected.
- **Avoid removing new flush**, which ultimately results in regrowth that attracts the Asian citrus psyllid.
- **Properly dispose of citrus green waste.** Dry out or double bag green waste to ensure it is not a carrier for psyllids.
- **Minimize psyllid access to host plants** by keeping citrus in screened-in structures, shaded areas or inside, if possible.

Visit CITRUSINSIDER.ORG to stay up to date on quarantines and psyllid news.



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STAY EDUCATED.

Visit class.ucanr.edu and take the University of California's *Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing for Retail Nurseries* online learning course.

WHAT TO TELL HOMEOWNERS ABOUT THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID



Asian citrus psyllids are brown, aphid-like insects that feed on the leaves and stems of citrus trees.



Young Asian citrus psyllids are yellow and produce a white, waxy substance. Ants will feed on their honeydew and protect them from natural enemies.

- **Inspect trees** for the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees, and especially when you see the tree producing new leaves.
- **Do not move citrus trees**, twigs or leaves in or out of your area, or across state or international borders. Citrus tree tags inform customers of quarantine areas.
- **Dry out or double bag plant clippings** prior to disposal so that psyllids are not spread on green waste.
- **Cooperate with agriculture crews** placing traps, inspecting trees and treating for the pest.
- **Visit CALIFORNIACITRUSTHREAT.ORG** for more information and to see photos of the psyllid and disease.
- **Provide information** about psyllid-effective insecticides and tips for application (see Ways to Treat at Home sidebar).
- **Control ants**, which protect psyllids from natural enemies.

WAYS TO TREAT AT HOME

Several products are available to homeowners for control of the psyllid, including oils and soaps formulated as insecticides, carbaryl, and systemic imidacloprid. Most of these products are also useful for the control of other common insect pests of fruit trees.

It is important to apply pesticides for psyllids only if the psyllids have been found in your area, and always follow label instructions for safe and effective use. To protect bees, do not apply pesticides when citrus trees are in bloom. Make sure foliar-applied insecticides reach the new growth where young psyllids hide.

Oils and soaps don't last long. They may need to be reapplied every couple of weeks while trees are producing new growth (flushing). Carbaryl and imidacloprid are longer lasting, ranging from a few weeks up to a few months.

For more treatment information,
visit IPM.UCANR.EDU/URBANACP

University of California
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IF YOU FIND THE PEST

Call the California Department of Food and Agriculture at **800.491.1899**, or contact your county agricultural commissioner if you suspect a psyllid has been found.