



Nurseryman's Reflection on Impacts to Nurseries and Growers if HLB/ACP Arrives

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HLB & Florida Citrus Nurseries

- Florida was not prepared for HLB
- Anger, frustration and finger pointing
- Other states blame Florida and want protection
- Federal government quarantined State of Florida
- Rule by committee - Industry, Researchers & Government meet
- Florida Rule 5B-62 - All nurseries fully enclosed within 2 years
- Tree movement out of state is stopped
- It took five years and federal lawsuit to open tree movement
- USDA develops “Protocol for the Interstate Movement of citrus plants”
- Citrus Nursery Industry still working with USDA to improve protocol 14 years after HLB discovered
- National Citrus Nursery Association formed to work with USDA



Protecting AU Citrus from Diseases

- Federal Regulations
- Citrus Budwood
- Citrus Nurseries
 - Commercial Trees
 - Retail Trees
- Citrus Growers



Don't assume that government understands your industry

- Democracy starts with a full stomach
- There is no such thing as virtual food
- Food security and national security go together
- Agriculture is a major economic engine in AU
- Promote the value of your industry, economic impact, number of jobs, etc.
- It's important government understand your industry's contributions to AU



Federal Regulations

- Federal regulations are already in place for Biosecurity controls
- Examples include entry inspections & sniffer dogs
- RFID ear tag traceability in livestock
- Expanding Biosecurity to include budwood protection is much cheaper than the cost of recovery by millions of dollars
- Why a Federal Regulation vs. Industry Requirements?
 - All it takes is one rouge nursery to spread a disease
 - Without a Federal Regulation how do you prevent a rogue nursery?
 - Consider a budwood tax that can go into Biosecurity Fund
 - Regulations should be clear, concise and enforceable

Citrus Budwood Regulations

- Establish a MANDATORY national budwood scheme for producing ALL propagative material inside enclosed systems. This should include citrus relatives that can be infected with HLB.
- Develop a national budwood disease testing protocol
- Establish a national law requiring all nurseries propagating citrus and/or citrus relatives use only budwood from national scheme
- In my opinion this should be done ASAP!



Citrus Nursery Propagations

- Establish a national citrus nursery registration program requiring all citrus propagators be registered
- If not registered, it should be closed
- Prevent “Rogue Nursery” propagations
- “Rogue Nurseries” can spread disease, which could cost millions in eradication

Traceability

- Establish a national tree labeling/tagging scheme to allow traceability back to propagating nursery.
- This is especially important for retail trees.



5393
Batch ID
Hamlin 8-1-4/ SuperSour 3 TC
Z4 F7 Bud Date 11/20/23 BCR# 876943 REGIS
INCREASE BLK Source: 0657

Retail

Establish a national law making it illegal to sell citrus trees or citrus relatives unless from a registered nursery.



The goal is to prevent disease spread

- Prevent disease from entering the budwood supply prior to disease entry into AU
- Prevent “Rouge Nurseries” from propagating and selling citrus trees
- Prevent retailers from unknowingly selling trees from “Rouge Nurseries”
- Work with growers to ensure they know why this is important
- It takes time to get rules and protective systems in place
- “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”
- Why take this risk?



Enclosing Citrus Nurseries

- Start discussing enclosing nurseries to protect nursery trees from disease
- Without disease present, these can be phased in over time
- It is easiest to accomplish when cash is available
- Since working with local land councils takes time, starting sooner is better than waiting
- There are a lot of things to consider when designing a fully enclosed nursery
- Visit other nurseries that have enclosed to learn about design options
- A rule does not have to be complicated



“All citrus and citrus relatives shall be propagated in a fully enclosed protected culture system that excludes insects and disease”



What happens to nurseries if a major disease like HLB is discovered?

- The first action is to limit the further spread of the disease
- Government and Industry will establish quarantines
- If nurseries are not enclosed - Tree movement could stop
- This could be permanent until systems are in place to prevent possible disease spread
- Exposed plants may never be saleable
- Costs can go up and cash flow can go down

Citrus Growers

What happens if insect and/or disease is discovered?

- Government and Industry will establish quarantines
- Fruit movement may be stopped or restricted
- If Packing Sheds are outside of quarantined area, then can't deliver
- Production costs go up
- Increased cost to tarp or treat fruit
- If nursery is in quarantine area, you may not get your trees

- Disease exclusion is safer and cheaper than eradication
- If a disease cannot be eradicated, there is a perpetual cost



Citrus Diseases

- Huanglongbing (HLB)
- Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC)
- Citrus Canker (CC)
- Citrus Black Spot (CBS)
- Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVVCV)
- Stubborn Disease (SD)
- Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV)



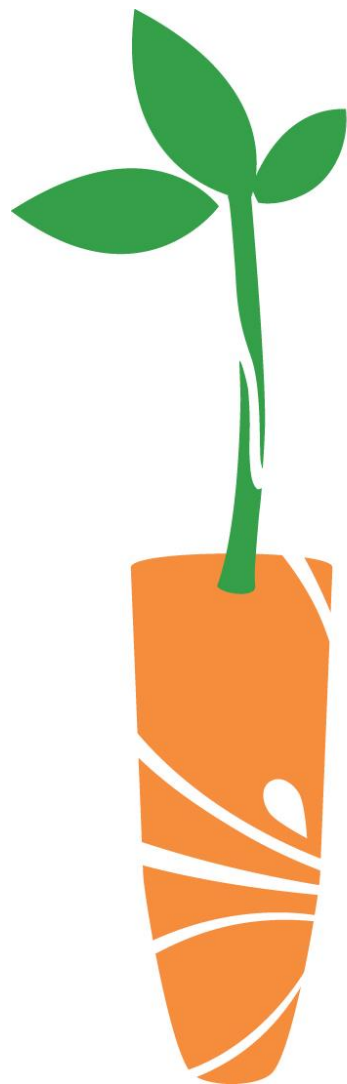
Final Thoughts

- This is a national citrus industry problem
- Not just nurseries, growers, packers, processors, associations or researchers
- A disease can be the end of all your businesses
- No one has more to lose than you do. It's your industry at stake and if you don't fight for it, who will!



International Society of Citrus Nurseries

- www.ISCN.co
- Next Congress in Chile August 2025
- New Website Under Construction



ISCN

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF CITRUS NURSEYMEN





**Thank you for inviting me to
present!**



2024 Citrus
AUSTRALIAN
CITRUS
CONGRESS