



# Citrus Research Board

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## To all Desert Valley Area citrus growers, packers, nurseries, and interested parties:

As I'm sure you know, in late June it was confirmed that the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) had established populations in Tijuana, Mexico at over 19 locations, one of which was just 4 blocks from the California border. In addition, a population was found in Tecate, about 25 miles east of Tijuana. USDA International Services believe that the pest may be found along the highway from Hermosillo to Tijuana raising the threat along the California and Arizona border. Obviously, our industry is at high risk from this invasive insect which is a very efficient vector of Huanglongbing or HLB, also known as Citrus Greening disease. HLB is the disease that is causing a rapid demise of the citrus industry in Florida and has also been found in Louisiana. There is no known cure for the disease, and the final outcome of infection is tree mortality. At this point, there has been no confirmed reporting of either ACP or HLB in California, but we know through its history in Asia, South America, Florida, and all along the Eastern Gulf Coast that the threat is very real and needs to be dealt with immediately.

**A special meeting has been added to the calendar in your area to update you on the threat and also give you a briefing on the California citrus industry action plan for HLB which is now under development by the Citrus Research Board.**

**Date: Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Forbes Auditorium  
Coachella Valley Water District  
85-995 Avenue 52  
Coachella, CA**

**Time: 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

I will discuss the industry action steps that the Research Board is anticipating, and CDFA plant pathologist Dr. MaryLou Polek will discuss the disease and outline the CDFA regulatory action plan. We will also report on the public education and outreach program CRB is conducting to enlist the help of the general public in being on the lookout for both the psyllid and the disease. We will also review what to look for in scouting. (Information on ACP and HLB is also on the agenda for the Desert Valleys CAPCA meeting that same day in La Quinta.)

Please try to be there if all possible, and please also encourage your colleagues to attend. We are especially anxious to get the ACP scouting information directly in the hands of field crews, and beyond that we would like to recruit as many industry members as possible to become actively involved in this overall effort.

**Ted Batkin, President**

Administering the Citrus Research Program  
Under authority of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, State of California