



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **State sees a resurgence of a dangerous citrus pest in Arizona**

(Phoenix) – In 2009 the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), an insect no bigger than a grain of rice, threatened to destroy homeowner's citrus trees and our citrus fruit and nursery stock industries, which add at least \$37 million each year to our state's economy.

ACP is a threat because it can carry citrus greening disease, otherwise known as Huanglongbing (HLB). Citrus greening is the most devastating disease known to infect citrus trees. There is no known cure; once a tree is infected it will die.

This year there has been a dramatic increase in the number of detections in western Arizona with new ACP detections in Yuma County and, now for the first time, numerous detections in Lake Havasu City.

In October 2009, ACP was first detected in San Luis, Arizona in Yuma County. Quarantine and control measures, quickly established by the Arizona Department of Agriculture, halted the spread of the pest.

Since then, the Arizona Department of Agriculture and partners have maintained a state-wide trapping program. Until January of this year, only single ACP adults were found (17 locations in all) with no repeat detections at any of those sites.

With multiple detections in the Lake Havasu City area, the State has updated the Asian citrus psyllid quarantine that limits the movement of citrus plant material found within the quarantine boundary.

Currently, there is an established quarantine area in the southwestern portion of Yuma County. The new quarantine adds a 20 mile area around Lake Havasu City, from approximately 10 miles north of I-40, south to the Avi Suquilla Airport (north of Parker in La Paz County), and all areas west of Alamo Road.

The department requests the public's assistance in controlling the spread of this devastating pest-by purchasing only inspected, certified citrus nursery stock for home planting, and to not ship your personal citrus plants (including grafting material) or homegrown citrus fruit without certification from a State regulatory official.

For more information on Arizona's quarantine and ACP work, please visit:  
<http://www.azda.gov/psd/acp.htm>

For more information on citrus health issues visit [www.saveourcitrus.org](http://www.saveourcitrus.org). Please remember:

***'DON'T RISK CITRUS, DON'T MOVE CITRUS'***

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