



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maricopa and Yavapai Counties Added to Citrus Quarantine

Today the Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture expanded the quarantine to protect the state's citrus industry and homeowner's investment in their citrus trees. The quarantine, which now extends into parts of Maricopa and Yavapai counties, prohibits the movement of citrus from quarantined areas unless the fruit has been treated and all greenery and stems removed.

The goal is to prevent the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid which can carry citrus greening disease, officially known as Huanglongbing (HLB). To date citrus greening has not been found in Arizona, but it is edging closer to our state.

"Citrus is a valuable part of the Arizona economy," said Mark Killian, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. "Quarantining parts of the state to prevent the spread of the psyllid is our best chance to prevent citrus greening from invading our state."

Most recently the disease was found in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas. Citrus greening has taken a tremendous toll on the citrus industry in Florida and is moving through the southeast.

The [2014 Farm Bill](#) provided \$30 million to research various methods to control both citrus greening and the Asian Citrus Psyllid. There are already some

proven methods to control the psyllid, including the release of a specific wasp, *Tamarixia radiata*, into areas where the psyllid lives. The wasps are natural predators to the psyllid. This method is being used in Yuma County.

"Our partners, everyone from the federal government to the universities to the local grower to the general citrus tree owner, are crucial to protecting our citrus," Killian said. "We need everyone's help to safeguard this iconic part of Arizona."

The Save Our Citrus campaign run by the USDA developed a [video](#) to help the public understand how easily citrus disease can spread.

Arizona first detected the psyllid in southern Yuma County in 2009. Since then the quarantine has gradually spread and now covers 22,706 square miles of Arizona. When the psyllid was first discovered in Florida in 1998, it spread like wildfire and starting in 2005, citrus greening spread with it, devastating the Florida citrus industry.

For more information on the Farm Bill, contact Brian K. Mabry 202-720-4623. For more information about the USDA project in Yuma, contact Suzanne Bond 301-851-4070.

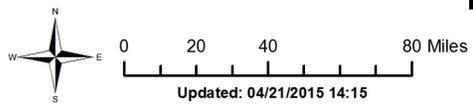
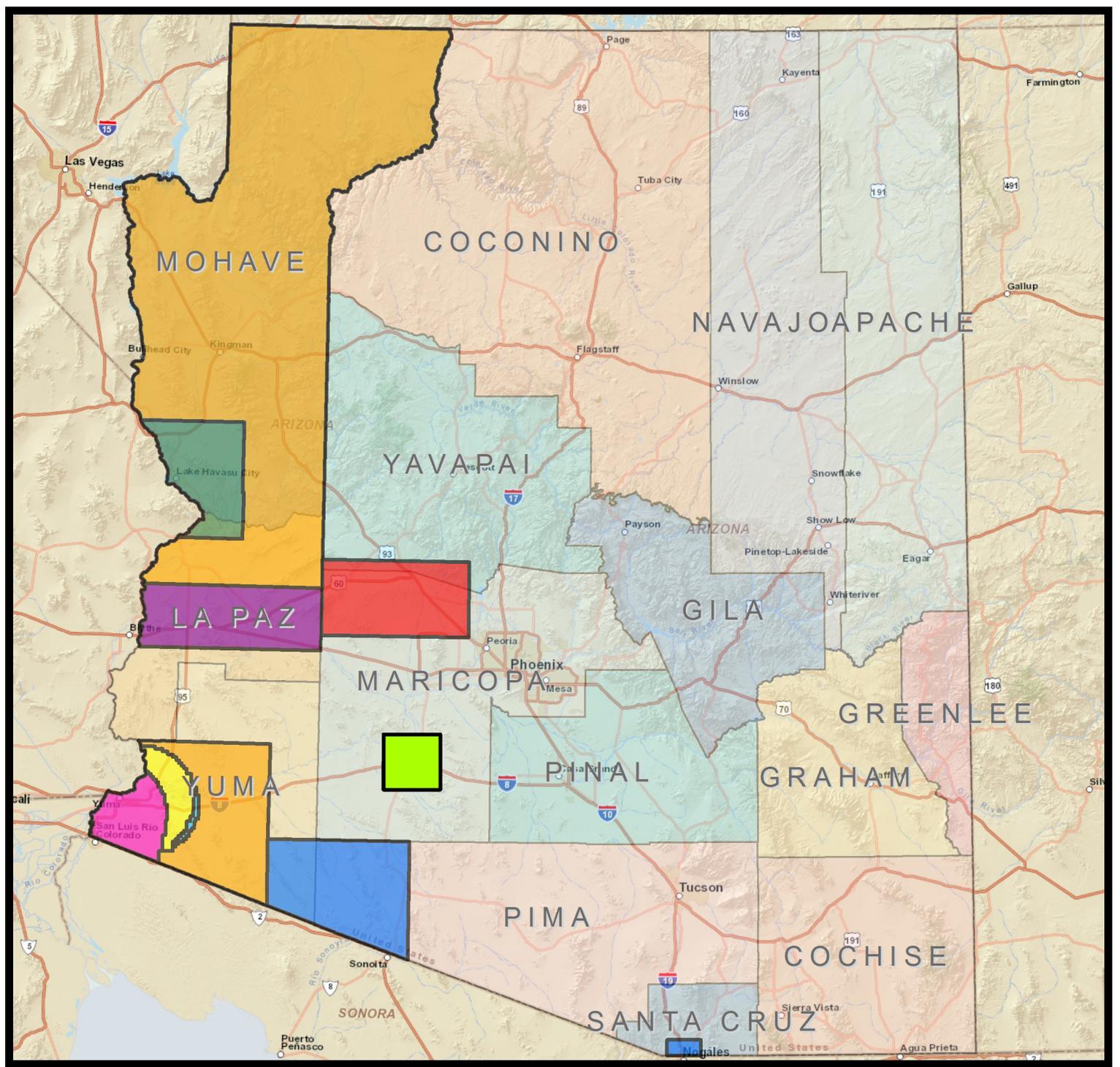


Asian Citrus Psyllid

ACP Quarantines

Quarantine Date

- 4-21-15
- 2-17-15
- 12-8-14
- 5-15-14
- 5-6-13
- 2-18-13
- 6-8-10
- 12-09
- 11-09



Arizona Department of Agriculture - Plant Services Division

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