



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## ***SAVE THE DATE***

## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**RELEASE DATE:** March 21, 2013

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## **Lake Havasu City Citrus Protection Workshops**

The recent discovery of the tiny Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) in Mohave County is prompting many questions about the bug and the disease it can carry. The ACP is about the size of a grain of rice and has the potential to carry Citrus Greening Disease, which is almost always fatal to citrus trees.

To help answer those questions, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Mohave County Extension Service's Master Gardener Program will hold two workshops next week in Lake Havasu City. The workshops will update the public on the current Asian Citrus Psyllid infestation. Homeowners and others can ask questions about how they can help stop the spread of this pest. It's particularly important for the public to understand how important it is not to move the psyllid outside the quarantine, even by sending fruit or greenery to family in other parts of Arizona or other citrus producing states.

In Arizona, citrus is a multi-million dollar industry and one of its most cherished symbols. Citrus is now being threatened by a disease that has destroyed citrus production in parts of the U.S. and across the globe. Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) is the most devastating disease of citrus in the world. Infected trees decline in health, produce inedible fruit and eventually die. It has no cure, can't

be diagnosed until it is too late and is spread by an insect the size of a mosquito called the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP).

HLB has made a devastating impact in Florida and is found in parts of Louisiana, Georgia, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Virgin Islands, Texas and, most recently, in California. Citrus greening has also been found in portions of Belize and on the east and west coasts of central Mexico.

In Arizona, the insect has been identified in a few areas of the state. However, none of the insects were carrying the disease and the disease has not been found in any trees in Arizona. The ADA has been able to control the situation with quarantine and other response actions.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,

**WHERE:** Lake Havasu City Aquatic Center  
100 Park Avenue, Rods and Relics,  
Room 155/156

**WHO:** AZ and US Departments of  
Agriculture, County Extension Service  
Master Gardeners

**WHAT:** The quarantine, the pest, the disease  
and the dangers of moving citrus

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