



# Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

---

Marilyn Kinoshita, Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures  
Tom Tucker, Assistant  
Commissioner/Sealer

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEW TULARE COUNTY ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID DETECTIONS NEAR EXETER

Tulare, CA November 17, 2014

The Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's office is announcing that one additional Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) has been detected on a trap south of the city of Exeter. The latest interception was confirmed by the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA). Maps and current information are available on the Agricultural Commissioner's website by visiting: <http://agcomm.co.tulare.ca.us/default/>.

CDFA has already begun to saturate the affected area with detection traps in order to determine the extent of any infestation. The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and CDFA will work collaboratively to determine what steps are taken next.

The Asian citrus psyllid is an invasive species of grave concern because it can carry the disease Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening. All citrus and closely related species are susceptible hosts for both the insect and the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected. The diseased tree will decline in health, producing bitter, misshaped fruit until it dies. To date, HLB has been detected on just one residential property in the Hacienda Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Kinoshita points out that her staff will continue to support the efforts of our \$750 million citrus industry, as well as our residential citrus owners. "I want to emphasize that citrus fruit is safe to eat and the disease is not harmful to human health."

Residents in the area who think they may have seen the pest are urged to call CDFA's Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner. Media inquiries related to technical questions about Asian Citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing disease are encouraged to contact Katie Rowland, Account Coordinator for Nuffer, Smith, Tucker Inc. at (661)817-3638.