

Citrus quarantine expands in Tulare County after new psyllid find

A quarantine to protect against the Asian citrus psyllid has been expanded in Tulare County following the discovery of a single psyllid west of Porterville.

The new quarantine measures 13 square miles and is bordered on the north by Avenue 184; on the east by West Westfield Avenue; on the south by Avenue 144; and on the west by Road 192. This area expands a previously announced quarantine in Tulare County that now reaches 746 square miles.

The psyllid is a serious threat to the state's \$2 billion citrus industry because of its ability to carry the plant-killing disease known as huanglongbing, or citrus greening.

A map of the quarantine zone is available online at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/go/acp-quarantine-sjv.

Other parts of the state are also under quarantine.

The psyllid can carry a bacteria that is deadly to citrus trees. It has decimated Florida's citrus industry, though in California so far only one psyllid has tested positive for the bacteria.

The quarantine prohibits the movement of nursery stock. It also requires that citrus fruit be cleaned of leaves and stems.

Source : <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/02/07/3756030/citrus-quarantine-expands-in-california.html#storylink=cpy> (07/02/2014)