

ABSTRACT

A Perspective of Research on HLB and its Vector in the United States

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A perspective will be presented of research on huanglongbing (HLB) and the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in the United States. The 1998 discovery of ACP in the United States prompted a relatively small number of immediate but uncoordinated research efforts on ACP in Florida citrus during the late 1990s and early 2000s. This initial pulse of research on ACP in Florida was followed by a period of time when little research attention was directed toward ACP. The 2005 discovery of HLB in Florida catapulted a surge of new research efforts in entomology, pathology and horticulture. The Florida Citrus Industry responded to the HLB crisis by increasing Florida Department of Citrus funds for HLB research and by lobbying USDA-ARS in Washington D.C. for increased research attention on HLB, not only by ARS scientists in Florida but also by ARS scientists across the nation. As more monies became available for the fight against HLB, the need to identify and prioritize research projects for funding increased. These needs were magnified nationally by the invasion of ACP into California and Arizona. Considerable attention (at least five independent assessments nationally between 2005 and 2010) has been given to identifying and prioritizing research needs related to HLB. Projects listed as high priority during these organized efforts have been similar. This presentation will review research directions on HLB and ACP deemed important by scientists in the United States, issues related to funding research, and tracking research progress.