

## CURRENT SITUATION, MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HLB IN BRAZIL

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### Summary

Since 2004, when huanglongbing (HLB or greening) was first found in Brazil, four sample surveys for the disease in São Paulo state (SP) were carried out. In October 2004 symptomatic trees were found in only 3.4% of the citrus blocks. The second sample survey was carried out in March-July of 2007 and 12.9% of the citrus blocks were estimated as infected. In the third sample survey, in March-April 2008, 18.6% of the citrus blocks were estimated presenting at least one symptomatic tree. Although the incidences of HLB-affected blocks were relatively high in SP, in 2008 only 0.58% of the trees were estimated to be infected. During March-April 2009, corresponding to the fourth sample survey, the disease was estimated to be present in 24.0% of the orchards in SP. Moreover, the number of symptomatic trees in the state in the same period year was estimated to be 0.87%. Although the disease was detected in all SP state zones and it was estimate to be present in more than 24% of the citrus blocks, the disease was still greatly concentrated in Araraquara and Araras areas, in the Central and South zones, respectively, in 2009. Since 2005 the federal and state governments are publishing legal tools intended to be used to decrease the HLB progress in the state. The Federal Normative Instruction 53 determines that the growers must inspect their groves at least four times per year and immediately remove all HLB-symptomatic trees. If, after one inspection, the HLB incidence is over 28%, the trees of entire block must be eliminated. However, the control of one disease that demands systematic elimination of diseased trees is not easy to be voluntarily accomplished by growers and then must be reinforced by law. Unfortunately, these actions, besides being needed to minimize the progress of HLB in SP, were not extensively applied and, as a consequence, the disease incidence is still rising in the state. For that reason, Fundecitrus, that used to help the Secretary of Agriculture of São Paulo State inspecting citrus groves, increased its work on scientific research and on phytosanitary education, taking all available HLB management information to the growers to convince them to accomplish the best HLB management practices in a regional approach.