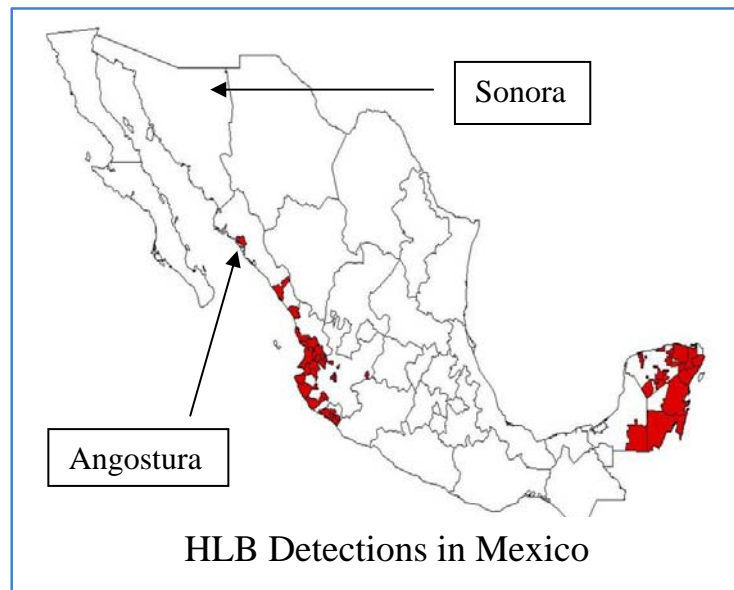


Mexico Huanglongbing Update

Last week, a meeting of the Trilateral Executive Committee was convened in San Diego, California to discuss issues related to the development of areawide programs for management of Huanglongbing (HLB) in Mexico, the United States and Belize. CCQC's Jim Cranney, CRB's Ted Batkin, CCM's Joel Nelsen and Sunkist's Mike Wootton attended the meeting along with representatives from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other organizations.

Representatives from Mexico's plant protection authority, SENASICA, reported that HLB was detected in an Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) sample from the municipality of Angostura in the northern part of Sinaloa, Mexico. So far, SENASICA has not been able to find HLB in any plant tissue at this location.

Angostura is about 725 miles from the California border. This detection is about 150 miles north of Mazatlan, which was the last known positive site on the Pacific coast. Angostura is approximately 200 miles from Ciudad Obregon, which is one of the three major citrus producing regions in Sonora.



Francisco Gutierrez outlined a bleak situation in Belize where HLB has spread to nearly the entire citrus industry with infection rates ranging from two to 70 percent of trees in infected groves. SENASICA representatives provided a summary of activities including ACP trapping and suppression and HLB diagnostics.

The meeting participants agreed to implement pilot areawide programs in Sonora and northeast Mexico. A meeting has been proposed for Jan. 27, 2011 in McAllen, Texas and Feb. 8, 2011 in Sonora to discuss areawide implementation details for these two regions.

CCQC's Jim Cranney will coordinate with citrus growers in Sonora, CDFA, SENASICA and APHIS to develop an agenda and a proposed work plan for discussion at the Feb. 8 meeting.

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