



## Industry Alert

### Clarification of Action for ACP

---

This is a follow up to our Industry Alert last week regarding the movement of fruit throughout California. Due to the number of questions we received we felt it necessary to clarify a few issues.

Reports from Florida indicate that the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) will travel on fruit as well as leaves and plant material; however these observations are from groves that have known infestations. Since the probability exists that there may be psyllid populations in a grove that have not been detected, we are simply asking that each and every grower, packer, shipper, and trucker use good judgment in preventing the movement of the ACP.

First, the main purposes of these Alerts are to reduce the threat of moving the Asian Citrus Psyllid around California by way of fruit movement. The ACP will move on plant material such as fruit, leaves, and stems and not be detected visually. Lessons learned from Florida and Brazil indicate that the pest can be in a grove as long as one year before it is detected using the trapping systems, or even visual inspections. For the protection of entire industry we are asking growers, shippers, packers and truckers to act responsibly, use common sense and Good Agricultural Practices to prevent any artificial movement from undetected populations that may occur.

Second, there is no requirement to use brushes and washers unless that is the only way you feel that you can ship clean loads. To minimize the risk of moving ACP, supervisors should stress that the picking crews be diligent in picking the fruit and removing any leaves and stems from the loads. This is not rocket science, but rather good common sense and the cheapest insurance the industry can buy. There is no magic formula as to how to achieve clean loads, there is no "level of tolerance" for leaves and stems. We should adopt a "zero tolerance" position to ensure adequate protection.

Third, this is strictly a volunteer program and does not carry any regulatory implications until the ACP is actually found in your groves. Then, of course, you will be placed under quarantine and all the current rules will apply to all loads, including the requirement for cleaning the fruit prior to movement. We are asking the whole industry to take precautions to prevent spreading the pest around the State and accelerating the potential devastation that has plagued Florida and Brazil.

The four organizations listed in this letter are working very closely with our counterparts in Florida, Texas and Arizona, along with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to increase the funding for our efforts to slow down the movement of ACP by treating populations in urban areas. If the industry does not help in this effort by taking all precautions available, the government funding agencies will have a more difficult time justifying these expenditures. Please join your fellow industry partners in helping with this effort.