

Fallbrook Citrus Quarantine Information (September 2024)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have confirmed the first detection of HLB in an unincorporated area of Fallbrook on September 10, 2024, in a plant material sample taken from one mandarin tree in a residential neighborhood in the Fallbrook area. This positive find requires a five-mile quarantine around the positive site. This is the third HLB quarantine in the county and is now the fourth quarantine in the county.

The infected tree is being treated and removed, and ag officials are moving swiftly on mandatory survey and treatment activities within a 250-meter area of the find site. These steps are critical to help remove a host of the disease and vectors that can spread the disease and to protect nearby citrus.

This detection establishes a mandatory HLB quarantine area with a five-mile radius around the find site. This prohibits residents and commercial operations from moving any host plants or plant parts within a five-mile radius, and fruit grown in the area must undergo additional mitigation step(s) before it can be transported into or out of this area.

An HLB quarantine area currently exists in parts of San Diego County in the Oceanside, Rancho Bernardo, and Valley Center areas, in addition to parts of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties, where more than 8,600 trees have tested positive for the disease and been removed since 2012. This new Fallbrook quarantine area connects the existing [quarantine boundaries](#) in the Oceanside and Valley Center areas of San Diego County.

Information for Industry Members

- CDFA crews will remove and dispose of the infected tree and conduct mandatory survey and treatment of residential host plants within 250 meters of the detection site. These steps are critical to removing a reservoir of the disease and vectors that can spread the disease and are essential to protecting nearby citrus.
- This detection establishes a mandatory HLB quarantine area with a five-mile radius around the find site. Do not move any host nursery stock, host plants, or plant parts within five miles of the find site.
- The new Fallbrook quarantine area will connect the existing quarantine boundaries in the Oceanside and Valley Center areas of San Diego County.

- This detection will also place additional parts of San Diego County into Bulk Citrus Regional Quarantine Zone 6, which will require any commercial citrus growers in the area to apply additional mitigation step(s) before citrus can be transported into or out of the HLB quarantine. Visit CitrusInsider.org's Map and Quarantines page for more details.
- CDFA will contact production and retail nurseries within five miles of the find site to issue a hold notice that prevents the sale of nursery stock host plants.
- All citrus growers, packers, transporters, and fruit sellers in the county must have an ACP Compliance Agreement from AWM to move any citrus fruit (contact CQP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov).
- Commercial citrus growers may contact San Diego County Citrus Pest Control District at 951-334-7611 or CDFA Grower Liaison Sandra Zwaal at szwaal2@gmail.com for more information.
- The [interactive citrus quarantine map](#) can be used to determine if you are inside the quarantine ([Directions to use interactive map](#)).

Information for Residents

- Protect your backyard citrus trees by searching for symptoms of HLB and reporting any suspicious symptoms immediately to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) at 1-800-491-1899 or AWM.
- Do not move citrus into or out of the area.
- Remove all leaves and stems and thoroughly wash backyard citrus before moving from the property where it was grown.
- Buy trees from reputable, licensed California nurseries.
- When grafting, use only registered budwood with source documentation.
- Dry or double-bag plant clippings before disposal.
- Talk to your local home and garden center about products that can protect your citrus trees against ACP.

- Please cooperate with agriculture officials – allow them to access your property to survey citrus trees and take samples to look for the disease.
- HLB-infected trees must be removed to protect other trees, the community's citrus, and the state's vibrant commercial citrus industry.
- If you have citrus that is not cared for, consider removing it to help prevent it from becoming a host to the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) or HLB.
- The ACP – the insect that spreads the disease – is similar in size to an aphid. Adults are brown, about 1/8th of an inch long, and feed with their bodies at a 45-degree angle.
- Symptoms of HLB include blotchy, yellowing of leaves; yellow shoots; lopsided, small, and rancid-tasting fruit; and premature and excessive fruit drop.
- HLB is not harmful to humans or animals, but it is fatal for citrus trees.
- There is no cure for HLB. When a tree is infected, it will die.