

A Message from the San Diego County Asian Citrus Psyllid Task Force

June 14, 2014

You are receiving this message because you have been identified as a member of the citrus industry in San Diego County. The Task Force will communicate with you occasionally on important issues regarding the pest Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing disease (HLB).

San Diego County ACP Liaison

The County of San Diego has appointed pest control advisor Enrico Ferro as the new growers' liaison for Asian citrus psyllid issues. Enrico will be working with growers to maximize strategies for treating ACP. He can be reached at ferroe@inbox.com or 951-334-7611. Former liaison Bob Atkins has moved on to a statewide role in ACP management.

Growers urged to prepare for next round of treatments

The San Diego Asian Citrus Psyllid Task Force is encouraging all citrus producers to adopt a year-round suppression program based on three underlying reasons:

- Keeping the ACP population down is the only effective means of fighting the rampant spread of HLB if, or when, the disease does arrive here.
- University of California research and experience observed in the Florida citrus industry has led to the conclusion that coordinated area-wide treatments provide the most effective control of ACP.
- Because it can take multiple years before the disease is detected, the population of ACP can be spreading the disease even before it is known to be in an area, so ongoing ACP population suppression is essential.

The Task Force suggests you consider a summer treatment **applied the last week in July or first week in August**. Specific recommendations on materials for conventional and organic producers can be found on the UC website.

UC Website

The University of California maintains an ACP website, which you can visit at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/ACP/>. Producers in the San Diego region should pay particular attention to the "Managing Established Populations" section on the website, which describes the strategies and timing for treatments.

Grower Meetings

When you visit the UC website you will note the comment "Treat the find site and neighbor orchards as close to the same time as possible, preferably within 2 weeks of each other to achieve the 'area treatment effect'."

Because coordinated treatments are so important in each growing area, the ACP Taskforce will hold growers meetings at the following places and time. Growers, grove managers, PCA's, and anyone else interested in the health of local citrus is encouraged to attend.

June 24 at 3:00 pm

Valley Center Community Hall
28246 Lilac Road, Valley Center, CA 92082

June 25 at 3:00 pm

Fallbrook Community Center
341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028

June 26 at 8:00 am

Pauma Valley Church
32077 Community Church Drive, Pauma Valley, CA 92061

2014 ACP maps

To view the most recent ACP detection maps go to www.sdfarmbureau.org and click on the ACP tab on the menu.

Ants

Regardless of the time of year or method used for ACP control, it is critically important to understand the need for ant control. ACP treatment strategies can be drastically diminished without a good ant control program in place.

Have Questions?

For questions about the San Diego Asian Citrus Psyllid Task Force activities, contact the Farm Bureau office at 760-745-3023 or sandiegoacp@gmail.com or contact San Diego County ACP coordinator Enrico Ferro at ferroe@inbox.com or 951-334-7611.