

## **Asian Citrus Psyllid (Vector of Citrus Greening) Detected in Baldwin County, Alabama**

The Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) was detected last month (August 2008) in citrus at two locations in Baldwin County, Alabama. The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was first found in Florida in 1998 and has also been recently discovered in Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and California. Ongoing surveys have resulted in the detection of the pest at a third location in the same county. Baldwin County has since been placed under quarantine by the State Department of Agriculture. ACP is the most efficient vector of citrus greening disease bacterium, *Candidatus Liberobacter asiaticum*. Citrus greening (also called Huanglongbing) is one of the most serious diseases of citrus causing reduced production and eventual tree death. The disease and vector complex currently poses a major threat to the Florida citrus industry and has the potential to significantly impact citrus production in the Gulf Coast. Fortunately, so far none of the ACP-infested citrus trees and insect samples tested positive for greening. The Alabama Citrus Greening/Vector working group was recently established to formulate and coordinate a plan for managing the pest/disease complex in the state, including quarantine, education, research and management strategies.

The press release confirming the detection of ACP in some southern states can be found at: <http://www.pestalert.org/oprDetail.cfm?oprID=340>

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