

## BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE AND THE CITRUS PEST & DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM HOST INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT DANGEROUS CITRUS TREE PEST

Local Residents Invited to Attend to Learn About Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing

WHAT:

The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program has partnered with Bakersfield College to host an information session about the Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing for students and local residents on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The Asian citrus psyllid is a dangerous citrus tree pest that can transmit an incurable plant disease called Huanglongbing, or HLB, that kills citrus trees. HLB was found in Hacienda Heights in 2012 and there have since been 24 more finds on residential trees in Los Angeles County. Once infected, the tree will die and must be removed.

The Asian citrus psyllid could spread HLB to healthy trees throughout the state, including the Central Valley, where much of California's commercial citrus is produced. One of the best ways to protect local citrus trees from this deadly disease is to stop the Asian citrus psyllid.

The information session will be attended by students in agriculture classes and is free to attend and open to the public. Attendees will learn about the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB, and how to inspect their citrus trees for the pest. Additionally, the California Department of Food and Agriculture will share details about its residential and commercial programs that aim to combat the pest and disease.

Interested attendees should RSVP at: <u>Eventbrite.com/e/information-session-about-asian-citrus-psyllid-tickets-28425944766</u>

WHEN: Wednesday, Oct. 12

10 – 11:15 a.m.

A 20-minute introduction and overview of the issue will take place at 10 a.m. and will be followed by rotating, small group breakouts

at Bakersfield College's farm.

WHERE: Bakersfield College Farm

Corner of Panorama Drive and Haley Street

Bakersfield, CA 93305