



NEW STATE REGULATION REQUIRES ALL BULK CITRUS FRUIT BE COVERED DURING TRANSIT

SACRAMENTO – May 19, 2017 – A recent regulation put in place by the California Department of Food and Agriculture requires anyone transporting citrus fruit to cover the load during transit to help prevent the spread of a dangerous citrus pest, the Asian citrus psyllid.

Even small operators selling fruit from their trucks must follow this regulation, which requires all bulk citrus loads to be fully covered regardless of the origin or the destination. This can be done in several ways, including the use of a shipping container, tarp, enclosed vehicle, including curtain van, or another method that completely covers the load. If using a tarp, tarps must reach the bed of the truck to be in compliance and avoid a fine. Those found not adhering to the regulation may be fined up to \$10,000. Further details on the regulation can be found at cdfa.ca.gov.

Safeguarding citrus fruit during transit reduces the likelihood that the Asian citrus psyllid pest, which feeds on the leaves of oranges, lemons, mandarins, limes and other citrus, spreads from one area to another. The pest is of grave concern because it can infect citrus trees with a deadly plant disease known as Huanglongbing or HLB. There is no cure for the disease and once infected citrus trees will die. The best way to protect against the disease is to stop the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid.

“Covering all loads of citrus – including small supplies being sold locally out of pickup trucks – is critically important to preserve the health of citrus trees throughout our state,” said

Leandro Ramos, environmental program manager for the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

“We all want to have a robust citrus industry that provides jobs and delicious fruit to California families, so we must work together to stop the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing.”

The disease is present in Los Angeles and Orange counties, making it even more important that citrus fruit and trees sold in those areas are properly managed.

State and local agriculture officials are working throughout Southern California to protect the community’s citrus through a multi-faceted control program that includes: inspecting trucks carrying bulk loads of citrus fruit; establishing quarantines on the movement of citrus trees and plant material; treating residential citrus trees for the Asian citrus psyllid; inspecting citrus trees for symptoms of the disease; and removing infected citrus trees from the environment to protect nearby citrus trees.

For more details on citrus industry regulations and quarantines, visit cdfa.ca.gov. To learn more about what residents can do to protect citrus trees from the pest and disease, visit californiacitrusthreat.org or peligrancitricosencalifornia.com.

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