

FRUIT DONATION TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES

With an increased demand for food assistance due to Coronavirus impacts, you can help your neighbors by donating unwanted citrus fruit to food banks, church groups and gleaning organizations. Here are some best practices when picking and transporting citrus and tips for donating to nonprofit organizations.

PICK A DONATION CENTER



Food Banks

Food banks accept and redistribute food items to feeding programs, providing much needed support to individuals and families in need. Visit the [California Association of Food Banks' website](#) to learn more and to find a food bank near you.



Churches

Many churches accept food donations and will transport items to shelters or from their own food pantry programs. Reach out to your local church to see if they have a food donation program.



Gleaners

Gleaners will harvest fruit and transport it to food banks and other hunger relief programs. Food Forward has [a list of gleaning organizations](#) in many areas of California.

FRUIT HARVESTING BEST PRACTICES

When harvesting and donating your own citrus fruit, follow these best practices to ensure the deadly citrus tree disease, **Huanglongbing (HLB)** does not destroy our beloved citrus trees. HLB has been found in Southern California and has no cure. It is spread by a tiny insect called the **Asian citrus psyllid (ACP)** as it feeds on citrus tree leaves. The best way to protect our citrus trees from HLB is to prevent the movement of the ACP. When harvesting fruit to donate, be sure to:

- ✓ Remove all leaves, stems and branches before citrus is moved from the property.
- ✓ Wash fruit thoroughly before moving the fruit.
- ✓ Fully open bags carrying your citrus, dump and shake them out, and remove any stems, leaves or other debris before leaving the property.
- ✓ Inspect clothes, personal items (hats, gloves, sleeves, etc.) and vehicles for plant material and brush them off before leaving the property.
- ✓ Report any suspected findings of the disease to California Department of Food and Agriculture: 800 491 1899.

Learn more tips on preventing ACP and HLB and see photos of the pest and disease by visiting CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.

