

Shortened action plan and procedure for the early detection and response to Huanglongbing the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*) entering South Africa.

Compiled by JH Venter

Refer to the contingency plan for details.

1. Management and coordination.

All actions (detection, delimiting and control) are managed and coordinated through the Citrus Greening Committee to ensure role player engagement as much possible. Control is executed by the Executive Officer in terms of the control measures R110 of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983).

2. Surveillance

a. Pre-incursion Awareness

Public awareness aids early detection. Awareness material such as brochures, audio and audio visual material, social media and road signs etc., should be produce and distribute on HLB and its vectors to alert and inform the public regarding this pest. Distribution points and the relevant target be identified before distribution. Additional training should be provided to field workers and nursery personnel regarding this pest.

b. Detection/delimiting and monitoring surveys

The survey process for detection and delimiting should be followed according to the approved protocols.

Surveys and eradication actions are conducted by the DAFF Directorate Inspection Services (IS) General surveillance should include scouting for the detection of symptoms of HLB, sampling of symptomatic plants for testing, and sampling of psylla for asymptomatic diagnostic tests.

Such surveys must be carried out on *Citrus* (commercial species and varieties), and species of *Murraya* (e.g. orange jasmine), *Bergera* (e.g. curry leaf) and *Clausena* (e.g. wampee), at residential properties, commercial and abandoned orchards, nurseries, parks, retail outlets, weekend markets and roadside stalls. Each area must be handled accordingly.

Delimiting surveys must be completed as soon as possible. Any delay may be critical in restricting further spread. Trace back and trace forward evaluations must be carried out to determine to origin (source material) of the outbreak and the potential spread that might have occurred already.

Leaf symptoms (Typical and atypical)



Mottling



Possible root problem



Deficiency

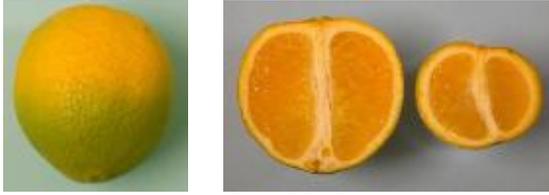


Out of season blossoms



Atypical symptom

Fruit symptoms



Lopsided

3. Data Capturing

All data, especially the location and GPS coordinates of the site of detection or occurrence, must be recorded.

4. Regulatory procedures

- i. Responses to an incursion should be implemented less than 1 week after an incursion is detected. All actions must be completed according to the approved contingency plan.
- ii. After symptoms of HLB are observed or possible *D. citri* was detected during scouting a sample needs to be collected from all the trees showing symptoms in the near vicinity and send to DAFF diagnostic services for identification.
- iii. Emergency procedures must be followed immediately.
- iv. An order must be issued to the land user to prevent the movement of propagation material from the area.
- v. After test results have confirmed the citrus trees with HLB, infected trees must be destroyed immediately.
- vi. A delimiting survey must be conducted according the approved protocol which includes scouting and testing of all hosts in the delimited area.
- vii. Quarantine must be instated to the delimited area according the approved protocol which will differ between producers, nurseries, house gardens, road stalls etc.
- viii. A cost benefit analyses may have to be carried out which will evaluate the natural environment, in terms of biotic and abiotic entities which would determine potential spread and the potential to targeted action areas.
- ix. Depending on the delimiting process and the area the quarantine area may change over time which may also include the implementation of additional delimiting surveys. Thus the concentric circles may be extended.
- x. All trees found to be positive in the delimited area must be destroyed.
- xi. An order must be given to the land user to instruct him to destroy all trees and other host plant material which was tested positive immediately. Trees should be cut and a herbicide applied. A systemic insecticide must be applied to ensure a reduction of vectors in the area.
- xii. Depending on the percentage host plant infestation in an area and the rate of eradication additional host plants in surrounding areas may also be removed.
- xiii. No propagation material may be move from the property for at least 12 months after eradication was declared.
- xiv. In cases where not all the trees were tested positive for HLB and an orchard were partially destroyed, regular samples must be taken to test for HLB.