

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**CITRUS PEST & DISEASE
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

Nearly 14 years after the first Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was detected in California, our state's commercial groves have successfully remained free from Huanglongbing (HLB), and an accomplishment of this magnitude is no small feat. This milestone is only possible through the incredible resiliency exhibited by citrus industry members, regulators and residents, and a laser focus on our shared goal – ensuring a robust future for California citrus.

While another year without a commercial HLB detection is worthy of celebration, the past fiscal year presented its fair share of head winds for citrus growing operations. From pandemic-induced transportation challenges to labor shortages and lower production yields, our environment provided plenty of distractions, but our industry's dedication and relentless campaign against ACP and HLB is a source of immense pride. Despite these hardships, industry members continued to stay informed, participate in area-wide treatment efforts and employ a variety of best practices to safeguard their operations.

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) has also worked hard to keep its foot on the accelerator in the ongoing fight against invasive pests and diseases. The CPDPP continues its dedication to improving efficiencies, maximizing funds and keeping HLB out of our commercial operations. As part of these efforts, several measures have been set in motion across California to protect the state's coveted crop, including increased use of biocontrol to

suppress ACP populations, implementation of a multi-pest survey to look for a variety of invasive insects and diseases in California, and swift action in the state of a crisis. Looking forward, the committee is continuing to evaluate the program for efficiencies through the creation of a Science Advisory Panel, who will review program activities and identify potential areas to improve efficiency and efficacy.

Though much has changed since the California citrus industry came together more than 10 years ago to support the creation of the CPDPP, one constant remains: the program's dedication to fighting the spread of HLB. Through the leadership of Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee, and its new chairman Mark McBroom, alongside the guidance of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, it has never been more important for the California citrus industry – including the CPDPP, regulatory authorities, citrus growers, the scientific community and others – to continue to work together to prevent the establishment and spread of devastating pests and diseases and preserve California's citrus industry for years to come.

Victoria Hornbaker, *Director,
Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, California
Department of Food and Agriculture*

Jim Gorden, *Outgoing Chair,
Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee*

CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE 2022

As the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee's newest chair, it's my honor to continue the efforts laid in place by my predecessor, Jim Gorden. The Committee will remain committed to guiding the activities of the CPDPP in order to prevent the spread of HLB into our commercial groves. Together, we can preserve our citrus industry for years to come. —Mark McBroom, Chair

• **Mark McBroom**,
Chair

• **Etienne Rabe**,
Vice Chair

• **Keith Watkins**,
Secretary/Treasurer

• **Craig Armstrong**
• **Kevin Ball**

• **Franco Bernardi**
• **Brad Carmen**

• **Aaron Dillon**

• **Bob Felts, Jr.**

• **John Gless**

• **John C. Gless**

• **Jim Gorden**

• **Nick Hill**

• **Jared Plumlee**

• **Gregorio Rundini**

• **Roger Smith**

BY THE NUMBERS

During FY 20-21, the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program used its funds to support its strategic priorities and fight HLB on multiple fronts.

ON THE GROUND



423

Residential citrus trees confirmed HLB+ and removed



104,975

Residential properties surveyed for the Asian citrus psyllid and Huanglongbing



25,789

Asian citrus psyllid traps deployed throughout the state

IN THE LAB



65,809

Citrus plant samples tested for HLB in authorized labs



32,834

Asian citrus psyllid samples tested for CLAs

REVENUES BY SOURCE



\$15,559,937

Assessment on cartons of citrus



\$12,144,701

US Dept. of Agriculture, Citrus Health Response Program



\$5,000,000

California's General Fund

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY*

\$12,719,425

Quickly Detect and Eradicate Diseased Trees

\$3,229,280

Control Movement of Psyllid Around the State; Enforce Regulations

\$9,383,969

Suppress Asian Citrus Psyllid Populations

\$1,219,223

Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

\$1,457,478

Outreach and Collaboration

\$6,367,394

Administrative

FACTS AND FIGURES

*Expenditures reported as of March 2022



3,157,358

Number of biocontrol agents released in 12 regions throughout California and surrounding areas



482

Number of CPDPP-generated stories in the news about ACP/HLB



40

Number of public meetings held by CPDPP



850+

Number of new compliance agreements signed



9,000+

Number of inspections of bulk citrus establishments conducted by county partners



493,000+

Number of bins of fruit moved across zones (this does not include bins of fruit grown and packed within the same zone)

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) works in concert with numerous agricultural and citrus industry partners to advance our shared goal of limiting the spread of HLB throughout the state. Through these strategic partnerships, the CPDPP is able to consult with subject matter experts on identifying solutions that will best serve California citrus growers and ensure industry stakeholders are knowledgeable of the latest best practices and regulatory information. These efforts are key to slowing the spread of HLB and ACP – and this objective cannot be accomplished by one organization alone.

CALIFORNIA CITRUS MUTUAL

“Partnerships are critical to get anything done. The program utilizes each partner’s expertise to help deliver results for citrus growers. As a result of these partnerships, HLB has not impacted California’s commercial production. Working in close collaboration with CPDPP allows CCM to bring the industry the resources it needs.”

– Casey Creamer, President & CEO, CCM

CITRUS RESEARCH BOARD

“At Citrus Research Board, we have access to leading edge science technology and research that can directly benefit California Citrus Growers. Through our partnership, CRB can tap into the nation’s brightest minds to provide data analysis that helps the committee make informed decisions.”

– Marcy Martin, President, CRB

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

“An important component of our efforts includes the continued collaboration with the CPDPP and the local citrus industry to implement regulatory requirements for agricultural quarantines. County Ag Commissioners are able to provide well-prepared resources tailored specifically to our region, have clear and open communication that outlines the involved agencies’ roles, and responsibilities in messaging to stakeholders, affected growers and homeowners, and the general public to ensure all are informed of the threats associated with the ACP and HLB.”

– Ha Dang, San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner

GROWER LIAISONS

“Through the work of the Grower Liaisons and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, we partner with citrus growers in all major citrus producing regions to encourage participation in activities that will help prevent the spread of this pest and disease from impacting commercial operations. Working with California citrus growers is paramount to the program’s success, as there are always industry partners available to make sure the questions and concerns of growers across the state are heard loud and clear and that we can provide them with the tools they need.”

– Sandra Zwaal, Grower Liaison, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

“Partnerships are a huge advantage in California. This collaboration allows the citrus industry to discuss issues openly with the regulatory agencies and, in turn, helps us all make better decisions.”

– Helene Wright, State Plant Health Director, California, USDA APHIS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

“The CPDPP has a good balance of local, grower-led decision-making opportunities with support of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. UC ANR is able to partner in that effort by providing science-based inputs. Every level where action is needed, the right people are in place to take responsibility.”

– Neil McRoberts, Epidemiologist, University of California

PURSuing OUR VISION: COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Comprised of 17 members from throughout the state, the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee advises the California Secretary of Agriculture, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the agricultural industry on efforts to combat ACP, HLB and other invasive pests and diseases. To guide decision making, four subcommittees comprised of stakeholders and subject-matter experts evaluate various aspects of the program. Some key milestones from the 2020-2021 fiscal year include the following.

FINANCE

BOB FELTS JR.

Finance Subcommittee Chair and Owner of Felts Farm

To ensure program goals are accomplished efficiently with the resources available, the finance subcommittee engaged an independent financial analyst to evaluate opportunities to maintain clear and accurate records of how program dollars are spent. Following the analyst's guidance, tracking of expenditures and revenues has been streamlined to allow CPDPD staff to quickly capture the status of program expenses in a timely manner. The finance subcommittee assesses various areas annually to compare expenditures against previous years, in addition to monitoring crop production numbers related to revenue to provide useful input to the Committee for future budgeting purposes.

OPERATIONS

KEITH WATKINS

Operations Subcommittee Chair and Vice President of Bee Sweet Citrus

To maintain the program's efficacy and remain agile with the everchanging challenges presented to our industry, the operations subcommittee continues to adapt to shifting protocols to ensure CPDPD staff can continue their work efficiently and safely. The operations subcommittee continues to adjust its resources in a timely manner when an HLB detection is made adjacent to a commercial grove by shifting focus of surveying and inspection activities to the affected area to isolate the pest and disease and protect nearby commercial groves from potential exposure prior to continuing regular surveying and inspection activities in the HLB quarantine.

OUTREACH

MARK McBROOM

Outreach Subcommittee Chair and Owner of Bloom to Box Crop Care

The outreach subcommittee carried out swift communications efforts as shifts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued and new ACP and HLB milestones arose. The first detection of HLB in San Diego County had the outreach subcommittee firing on all cylinders to connect with audiences, and seamlessly enacting the program's crisis communications plan to align partners, communicate the importance of this milestone, and encourage homeowners, industry members and elected officials to do their part in preventing further spread of HLB. Additionally, proactive efforts were taken to encourage audiences to adhere to quarantine restrictions through an integrated "Don't Move Citrus" campaign, which garnered more than 128 million touchpoints across the state.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ETIENNE RABE

Subcommittee Chair and Vice President of Horticulture for Wonderful Citrus

All recommendations from the science and technology subcommittee are underpinned by the latest and best available scientific research to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the program. For example, there are currently limited mitigation options available to move fruit from inside the HLB quarantine area to packinghouses outside the area. In close association with the California Citrus Quality Council, the committee is exploring registering ethyl formate for post-harvest bulk fruit fumigation. By working to provide new solutions, we can support the citrus industry's ability to thrive long term.



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