

Citrus  
Canker  
in  
Manatee  
Co.  
1998

Report No. RA-3-Manatee Co.  
from the  
Risk Assessment Group Meeting  
September 29, 1998

Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Eradication Program  
A Cooperative Program of the  
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry  
and the  
USDA Animal & Plant Health Identification Service, Plant Protection & Quarantine

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### Introduction

**PURPOSE:** The Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group communicated by teleconference on 29 September 1998 at 10:00 AM to discuss and formulate recommendations for two issues. First, whether the quarantine boundaries should be adjusted in light of recent positive finds in two commercial groves and several residential properties. Second, to examine the movement of citrus fruit from a canker-regulated area into other citrus-producing areas of Florida.

Members of the Risk Assessment Group were:

Dr. Wayne N. Dixon, Group Leader	Chief, Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS
Dr. Timothy R. Gottwald	Plant Pathologist, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratories, USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. James H. Graham	Soil Microbiologist, Citrus Research and Education Center, IFAS, University of Florida
Mr. Leon Hebb	Co-director, Citrus Canker Program, Manatee Co., // Chief, Bureau of Pest Eradication and Control, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS
Dr. John W. Miller	Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology Section, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS
Dr. Stephen R. Poe	Plant Pathologist, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine
Dr. Timothy S. Schubert	Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology Section Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS

In addition to the members, the following invited guests were present and participated in the group's teleconference meeting:

Ms. Connie Riherd	Assistant Director, FDACS/DPI
Mr. Bob Spaide	Assistant Director, Safe Guarding and Pest Management, USDA/APHIS/PPQ
Mr. Ray Seitler	FDACS/DPI - Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Program
Mr. A.C. McAulay	FDACS/DPI - Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Program

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The agenda followed by the Risk Assessment Group:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
10:00 AM	<b>Program Status:</b> Review of background information in groves and residential properties
10:20 AM	<b>Discussion Issues:</b> Placement of quarantine boundaries Movement of citrus fruit
11:00 AM	<b>Recommendations</b>
11:45 AM	<b>Adjourn</b>

#### **Recommendations by the Risk Assessment Group**

**Recommendation 1.** The quarantine boundaries of the Manatee Co. citrus canker program should be expanded in a northwards manner to include the area bounded by US 41N on the west side, Buckeye Road on the north side, and Carter Road on the east side. Also, that survey be conducted four times a year in the area bounded by Emerson Point beginning in the southwest (S 12, T 35S, R 16E), extending in a northeasterly direction to Piney Point and County Line Road (S 2, T 33S, R 18E), east along County Line Road, to northeast corner of Section 2 Township 33 S, Range 18 E, and southwards to and along Carter Road, west on Buckeye Road, south on US 41 N west, and southwards following previously established quarantine boundaries.

Motion: Dr. Wayne Dixon      Second: Dr. Tim Schubert      Vote: Approved unanimously

**Recommendation 2.** A white paper should be developed on the issue of movement of citrus fruit into quarantine area packing houses, surface sanitized, and then distributed to citrus-producing areas including Florida as well as noncitrus-producing areas. The general opinion of the risk assessment group is that with proper sanitizing protocol the biological risk for spread of the Asiatic strain of citrus canker by sanitized, packed fresh fruit could be virtually eliminated.

Motion: Dr. Wayne Dixon      Second: Dr. Tim Schubert      Vote: Approved unanimously

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### Background to Recommendations

**Placement of Quarantine Boundaries: (Recommendation 1)** Eight positive grapefruit trees were detected on 2-7 July 1998 in the Gene's Citrus Ranch grove (S 17, T 33S, R 18E). Approximately 90% of the 26 acres receiving control action in the 40-acre block was pushed by 2 October 1998. The canker infection was moderate to heavy on the trees. Generally, the canker lesions were evident on the southern sides of tree canopies. Three positive orange trees were detected on 14 July 1998 in the Deseret Farms grove (S16, T 33S, R 18E). Approximately 1.8 acres of this 15-acre grove were pushed and burned on within a week of the detection. The Deseret Farm grove was approximately ¼ mile southeast of Gene's Citrus Ranch grove. The infection was moderate on the trees.

**Movement of Citrus Fruit: (Recommendation 2)** The movement of citrus fruit from a non-quarantine area into a packing house in the quarantine area for packing and distribution and then to citrus-producing areas in the state of Florida is not allowed under current protocol. The general opinion of the risk assessment group is that there is virtually no risk of such fruit fostering a citrus canker infestation in a citrus-producing area. General scientific opinion held by experts and the available literature suggest that fresh fruit from non-quarantine areas processed with proper surface sanitization will not have a biologically significant inoculum load such that a citrus canker infection could take place. A white paper will be developed by the risk assessment group for the purpose of describing the issue in a biological and risk management sense.

### Summary

The Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group communicated by teleconference on 29 September 1998 to review the need to amend the current quarantine boundaries in light of two groves and several residential properties found with Asian strain citrus canker during survey efforts from November 1997 to September 1998. Quarantine boundaries were extended approximately 1.5 miles northwards in the northeastern part of the established quarantine area. A white paper on movement of citrus fruit will be developed to further explore the need to change regulations bearing on movement of citrus fruit from outside the quarantine area, into the quarantine area for packing, and then distribution to citrus-producing areas in the state of Florida.

Report approved and respectfully submitted by the Manatee Co. Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group on 1 October 1998.

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Wayne N. Dixon, Ph.D.  
and for:

Dr. Tim Gottwald  
Dr. John Miller

Dr. James Graham  
Dr. Stephen Poe

Mr. Leon Hebb  
Dr. Tim Schubert

attachments