

Citrus
Canker
in
Manatee and Hendry
Cos.
1999

Report No. RAG-6-Manatee and Hendry Cos.
from the
Risk Assessment Group Meeting
March 12, 1999
Vero Beach, Florida

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

12 March 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Richard Gaskalla, Director
Division of Plant Industry

FROM: Wayne N. Dixon, Ph.D., Chief
Bureau of Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology

SUBJECT: Risk Assessment Report: RAG-6-Hendry and Manatee Cos.

Richard, please find attached five copies of **CCRAG-6-Hendry and Manatee Cos.** which was prepared by the Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group after meeting on 12 March 1999 in response to requests for citrus canker risk assessments from citrus growers in Manatee and Hendry Cos. From Hendry Co., we had a request from Siboney Citrus Inc. to review a previous risk assessment recommendation; and from Manatee Co., a request from a citrus grower to risk assess the detection of a positive Valencia orange tree in one block. Since the risk assessment group was in attendance at the Science Issues Working Group, Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Task Force meeting at the Indian River Citrus League offices in Vero Beach on 12 March 1999, we were able to conduct the risk assessment after the science issues group meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our report.

xc: Dr. Jim Graham
Dr. Tim Gottwald
Mr. Leon Hebb
Dr. Tim Schubert
Mr. Michael Hornyack
Mr. Ken Bailey
Mr. Richard Clark
Dr. Steve Poe
Dr. Xiaolan Sun

Introduction

PURPOSE: The Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group met on 12 March 1999 in Vero Beach, Florida to re-examine the recommendation formulated on 4 March 1999 in regards to Siboney Citrus Grove, Hendry Co. The second issue was to prepare a risk assessment for a single Valencia orange tree found positive for citrus canker in the House 40 block of Manatee Fruit Co., Palmetto, Manatee Co.

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, Horticultural 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. Xiaoan Sun	Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology Section, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS
Dr. Timothy S. Schubert	Plant Pathologist, Plant Pathology Section Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, FDACS
Dr. Stephen R. Poe	Plant Pathologist, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine

In addition to the members, the following members of the Science Issues Working Group, Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Task Force were present and participated in the group's mid-afternoon discussion:

Dr. Mike Irely
Dr. Pete Timmer
Mr. Tom Jerkins
Dr. Gareth Hughes
Mr. Doug Bournique

The following schedule and agenda was planned for the Risk Assessment Group:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
2:30 PM	1. Presentation and Discussion of Movement of Murcott Tangerine Fruit from Siboney Citrus Grove, Hendry Co. 2. Control Action on Valencia Orange in House 40 Block, Manatee Fruit Co., Manatee Co. Indian River Citrus League Office Vero Beach, Florida
3:30 PM	Adjournment

Recommendations by the Risk Assessment Group

1. Fresh fruit (Murcott tangerine) from blocks D-1 and C-1, Siboney Citrus Grove, Hendry Co., shall be allowed to move with adequate safeguards in place during harvest, transportation, and processing and as monitored by department. A compliance agreement shall be established that will include conditions including, but not limited to, (a) fruit and transport vehicles will be debris-free; (b) department personnel will be present and monitoring all activities at all times; (c) access will be limited to the harvest block; (d) trucks and harvesting equipment will be decontaminated when leaving the grove; (e) picker's clothes and pick sacks will be decontaminated each day; (f) new gloves will be issued to pickers that will be collected at the end of each day; (g) a complete paper trail from grove to processing site will be maintained; (h) transportation vehicles will be decontaminated before leaving the processing site; (i) people and equipment will not move from the harvest block into control action blocks; (j) control action in the adjacent canker-infected blocks shall start before or by the time of commencement of fruit picking in block D-1. This control action shall start in block C-2 (Cara-Cara) to remove four positive trees and a 125-foot buffer of exposed trees then proceed to blocks E-2, F-2 and F-3. For blocks E-2 and F-2, tree removal shall begin in the north end of rows and proceed south leaving two rows against blocks E-1 and F-1 (mandarins) as a temporary windbreak.

Motion: Dr. Wayne Dixon Second: Dr. Steve Poe Vote: Approved unanimously.

2. The positive Valencia orange tree and two exposed north, south, east, and west from the positive trees shall be burned in place in the Manatee Fruit Company, House 40 block (S11, T34, R17), Palmetto, Manatee Co. Survey efforts will be placed on a 30-day schedule. Fruit shall be allowed to move after completion of control action and a negative survey.

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

Summary

The issue of movement of commercial fruit from groves is dependent on ensuring the risk of moving the citrus canker pathogen is sufficiently mitigated to not pose a biological risk to the citrus resources of Florida. A prior recommendation of 4 March 1999 for the Siboney Citrus Grove was re-examined due to the presentation of additional information. It is important to know that mature disease-free citrus fruit

should not be considered an unreasonable biological risk. Additional mitigating strategies were formulated by the citrus canker risk assessment group to allow movement of the Murcott tangerines from one block in the Siboney Citrus Grove to a suitable processing site while concurrent control action proceeded in other blocks in the grove. It should be recognized that only diligent observation by the Siboney grove owners and personnel of all conditions of the compliance agreement and supervision by department personnel will facilitate this recommendation's disease management plan to sufficiently mitigate the risk of moving citrus canker.

Report approved and respectfully submitted by Citrus Canker Risk Assessment Group on 12 March 1999.

Wayne Dixon, Ph.D.

and for:

Dr. Tim Gottwald
Dr. Xiaolan Sun

Dr. James Graham
Dr. Stephen Poe

Mr. Leon Hebb
Dr. Tim Schubert