

# FIRST DETECTOR NETWORK NEWS



**NPDN**  
National Plant Diagnostic Network



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## Citrus greening (HLB) found in California

Stephanie D. Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

On March 29, APHIS confirmed the presence of citrus greening or huanglongbing (HLB) in Hacienda Heights, a residential neighborhood in Los Angeles County, CA. The disease was detected in samples of plant tissues collected from a lemon/pummel tree. It was also detected in Asian citrus psyllids (*Diaphorina citri*) collected in the area. These psyllids (ACP) are the vectors of this disease.

APHIS is working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), County Agricultural Commissioners, and the California citrus industry to develop a plan for communication, management, and regulation in response to this detection. CDFA will be enacting an emergency quarantine area around the detection site (5 mile radius) to prevent intrastate spread. APHIS will follow this with an interstate quarantine area.

In addition, the tree that tested positive will be removed and destroyed and citrus trees within an 800 meter radius of the positive site will be treated in an effort to eliminate the disease reservoir and any potentially positive psyllids. Furthermore, a survey will be conducted to determine if other trees and psyllids in the area will also test positive for the disease.

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Top image of ACP nymphs courtesy of Lyle Buss, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida.

Bottom image of greening symptoms courtesy of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry.



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- Texas area under quarantine for Mexican fruit fly
- CPHST announces release of TortAI: Tortricids of Agricultural Importance
- Additional host of boxwood blight identified

So far, the disease itself has been detected in California, Texas, and Florida (three of the four commercially important producers of citrus in the U.S.). It has also been detected in Louisiana, Georgia, and South Carolina. The vector of the disease can be found in the states

listed above as well as in Arizona, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Click [here](#) for more information regarding the APHIS quarantine.

## Texas area under quarantine for Mexican fruit fly

Stephanie D. Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

We reported in the January edition of this newsletter that Mexican fruit fly or Mexfly (*Anastrepha ludens*) was declared eradicated in the United States. This occurred after a long eradication effort in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (began in 2007) and the lack of Mexican fruit fly detections during the past year.

However, the San Benito area of Cameron County, Texas was recently placed under quarantine by APHIS (March 9) after finding seven unmated and one mated female in grapefruit and orange trees of a commercial grove. An eradication effort is under way in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

The effort consists of sterile male releases and spinosad or malathion foliar bait spray treatments applied to hosts trees around the detection site. APHIS considers any outbreaks of Mexfly as transient, actionable, and under eradication in the United States.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Image courtesy of Jack Dykinga, USDA Agricultural Research Service, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org), #1322088.

### About NPDN:

The NPDN is a network of state and federal officials, land grant universities, and First Detectors whose mission is to detect, diagnose, and disseminate information regarding high consequence plant disease or pests. The NPDN was established in 2002 in response to a need for greater agricultural security.

Over the past eight years the NPDN has grown into an internationally respected consortium of plant diagnostic laboratories.

The five regions that make up the NPDN are the: [NEPDN](#), [SPDN](#), [NCPDN](#), [GPDN](#), and [WPDN](#).

Please feel free to browse the links to the various regions to get a better idea of what is going on in your part of the country.



## CPHST announces release of TortAl: Tortricids of Agricultural Importance

Stephanie D. Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

Collaborators at Colorado State University and California Department of Food and Agriculture in cooperation with CPHST's Identification Technology Program have developed an identification tool for Tortricids of agricultural importance called TortAl.

It is designed to aid in the identification of adults and larvae. It contains interactive identification keys for both adults and larvae,

fact sheets (including information on life history and host plants), information on how to dissect and prepare specimens, and a database of DNA barcode sequences (due to the fact that it is not always possible to identify larvae based on morphological characteristics alone.

You can find this tool [here](#).

## Additional host of boxwood blight identified

Stephanie D. Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

We reported in the January edition of this newsletter that boxwood blight had been detected in Connecticut, North Carolina, and Virginia. This fungal pathogen (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) is known to affect plants in the genus *Buxus* which are popularly used as landscape ornamentals.

Recently, this disease was shown to infect another popular landscape plant pachysandra or Japanese spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*), an evergreen landscape cover found in the family Buxaceae.

Through inoculation studies, it was found that this plant developed leaf lesions, with many of the infected leaves turning yellow and dropping after a few weeks. The fungus also produced spores on this plant which could indicate that it may serve as a source of infection for boxwoods (and vice versa).

Click [here](#) for more information.

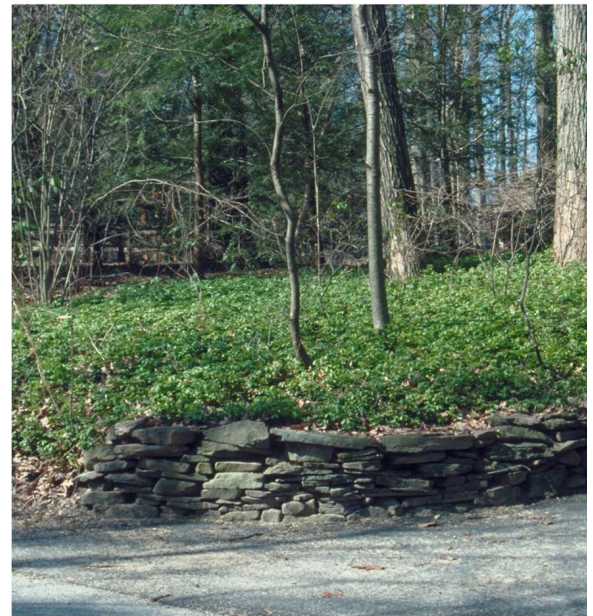


Image of Japanese spurge courtesy of Jil Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org), #0581030.

## NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System

The [North American Plant Protection Organization's \(NAPPO\) Phytosanitary Alert System](#) is featured in this newsletter every month. Remember that this a great resource to keep up to date on the latest pest detections and quarantine information. The website features both official reports and unofficial

alerts of pests for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

They also have free subscriptions that are available for periodic email notifications of new postings on their website. Be sure to check it out regularly!

## Upcoming Meetings:

- April 20-21, 2012 - the Georgia Master Gardeners Association Conference will be held in Canton, GA - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 1-4, 2012 - the Southern Region Master Gardener Conference will be held in Natchez, MS - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 3-5, 2012 - the Texas Master Gardener Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 6-9, 2012 - the Southeast Pest Management Conference will be held in Gainesville, FL - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 20-23, 2012 - the North Carolina Master Gardener Conference will be held in Asheville, NC - click [here](#) for more details.
- June 6-7, 2012 - the New Mexico Master Gardener Conference will be held in Las Cruces, NM - click [here](#) for more details.
- If you would like your meeting listed in the newsletter, let us know.

## First Detector Training Opportunities:

- April 23, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in Berlin, VT - click [here](#) for more details.
- April 25, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in Bennington, VT - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 2, 2012 - Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Training will be held in St. Albans, VT - click [here](#) for more details.
- May 2, 2012 - First Detector Training will be held in Reno, NV - click [here](#) for more details.
- If you are hosting a First Detector Training Session, please post these on the NPDN First Detector Training website so that they can be listed here.

## Do you tweet?

- Click [here](#) for updates.

## Employment Opportunities:

- Please click [here](#) for more information.

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You can include a short descriptive paragraph, links, and related images or documents – don't forget to include author and image credits though.

