CITRUS GREENING MANAGEMENT

- Buy only certified plants.
- Maintain good cultural practices on your farm.
- Look out for the vector.
- Do not plant sweet lime hedges around your farm.
- Do not move any plants/ planting material or samples from infected areas.
- If the disease is confirmed in your area, the infected plants will be destroyed by your Extension Officer.
- If you see any signs of the disease contact your Extension Officer or the Botanical Gardens at 266-3820/03.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

The citrus greening disease is a serious threat to the citrus industry of Dominica. If this disease and its vector is not brought under control soon, it will cause economic loss to the vital citrus industry.

Division of Agriculture & Forestry

Plant Protection and Quarantine Services
Botanical Gardens
Roseau
Dominica

Tel: 767 - 266 - 3820
agriquarantine@dominica.gov.dm

Identification and Management Guide of CITRUS GREENING DISEASE

(HUANGLONGBING - HLB)

WARNING!!!

Now Present in Dominica

CITRUS GREENING DISEASE

Huanglongbing / (HLB)

WHAT IS CITRUS GREENING?

Citrus Greening is one of the most serious diseases of citrus worldwide. The disease reduces production and the quality of fruits. It is a phloem restricted bacterial disease and affects all citrus cultivars. It is transmitted by an insect known as Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). The bacterium is named *Canditatus Liberacter Asiaticus*. There is currently no known cure for citrus greening and the infected trees eventually die. The disease poses no threat to humans or animals.

CAUSE OF GREENING:

It is caused by phloem limited bacteria Canditatus Liberacter of which there are three (3) species, Africanus, Americanus, and Asiaticus.

HOW IS THE DISEASE SPREAD?

» It is spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid, *Diaphorina Citri*, as they feed on the leaves.

» The adult psyllid must be infected in order to spread the disease.

» Psyllids can acquire the bacterium from infected trees, regardless of whether symptoms are present on the tree.

» Greening can also be transmitted by grafting infected bud wood onto a healthy plant.

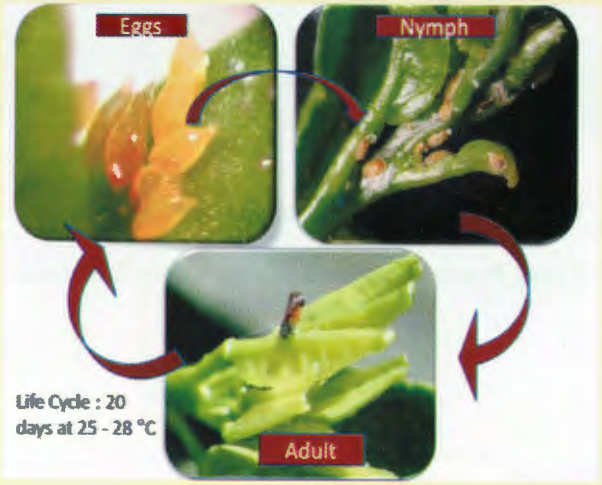
» It cannot be spread by wind or water or touch.

ABOUT THE VECTOR

- The adult is mottled brown in colour and 3 - 4mm in length.
- The psyllids are set at an angle of 45° to the plant, leaf or stem during feeding.
- They are often found on new flush, upper or lower leaf surface or along the plant and stem.
- There are five (5) nymphal stages.
- Numerous generations per year
- Eggs to adult in two (2) weeks at 75° - 85° F.
- Eggs are oval in shape and are 0.3mm long.
- Eggs are orange/yellow in colour.
- Nymphs are orange/yellow in colour.

Feeding Psyllid

LIFE CYCLE OF THE PSYLLID



SYMPTOMS OF CITRUS GREENING DISEASE

Leaf

- Bright yellow shoots amongst a green canopy.

- Leaves with blotchy mottle with light and dark green patches.

- Leaves contain yellow veins.

Fruit

- Fruit remains green at blossom end.