



DATOC

Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center

Quarterly Report

April – June 2019

Completed reports are published online at www.DATOC.us.

Sampling Activity and HLB Detections

In April 2019, DATOC presented data to the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) Operations Subcommittee that visualized sampling activity and huanglongbing (HLB) detections. The goal of this presentation was to help inform the program how disease discovery was related to program activities. Sampling effort and CLas detection over time were broken down for each Southern CA city in which CLas had been detected.

In Anaheim, Westminster, Pico Rivera, and Whittier, there was a downward trend in the number of samples collected, with a concurrent increase in the number of CLas-positive samples collected. There has been a large increase in the number of samples collected from Orange, Santa Ana, and Tustin, and the number of CLas-positive samples in these cities has also increased. The number of samples taken in San Gabriel, Temple City, and Rosemead has been variable; however, CLas-positive detections in these areas continued to increase. Overall, the ratio of total samples to positive samples has declined, which could indicate disease progression or improved efficacy of sampling and testing methods.

Best Practices in Response to HLB

Starting in early 2019, a task force of CPDPP members, citrus growers, and scientists, in collaboration with DATOC, worked to develop recommended actions citrus growers could voluntarily take if HLB was found near their commercial groves. DATOC provided the scientific rationale for each recommendation, and worked with Nuffer, Smith, and Tucker (NST) to incorporate revisions suggested by the task force. The recommendations were approved by the full CPDPP committee with some additional modifications, and the final document, “Best Practices in Response to Huanglongbing in California Citrus”, was published by NST on CitrusInsider.org in June. Members of the QBE Lab at UC Davis worked with DATOC to produce the “At-a-Glance” table which accompanies the final version. The recommendations were then presented by DATOC panelist Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell to citrus growers across the state at the Citrus Research Board’s Grower Seminar Series in June.

CDFA Action Plan

Throughout the spring and early summer, DATOC has provided regular input to CDFA as they refine their Action Plan for Asian Citrus Psyllid and HLB in California.

Seasonal Variability of CLas-positive Plant Samples in CA

DATOC analyzed the laboratory results of all CLas-positive plant samples collected in CA since 2012, to determine if there was significant seasonal variability that could affect disease detection. Such seasonality has been observed in plant samples from other growing regions of the world; however, no significant seasonal differences were observed in CA samples. DATOC concluded that there was equal likelihood of HLB detection year-round, which indicated that follow-up sampling after a CLas detection need not occur multiple times during the year to be effective. Results of the analysis were presented to the CPDPP Science & Technology and Operations Subcommittees in June 2019 with two recommendations: that the CDFA Action Plan be amended to include once annual, rather than biennial, retesting of groves after a CLas detection, and that the analysis be revisited should HLB be detected in significant numbers in commercial groves. The recommendations were accepted.