

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

Citrus Greening Quarantine (LAC 7:XV.127)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), and pursuant to the authority of the state entomologist in R.S. 3:1652, notice is hereby given that Department of Agriculture and Forestry is adopting these emergency regulations establishing a quarantine for citrus greening disease (“CG”), also known as Huanglongbing disease of citrus, caused by the bacterial pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp. The state entomologist has determined that CG has been found in this state and may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated by quarantine.

CG poses an imminent peril to the health and welfare of the Louisiana commercial citrus industry due to its ability to infest rutaceous plants. This industry has a farm value of \$2.4 - \$5 million in southeastern Louisiana in the form of citrus nursery stock, and \$5.1 million in the form of commercial citrus fruit in the state. CG renders the fruit unmarketable and ultimately causes death of infested plants. Failure to prevent, control, or eradicate this pest threatens to destroy Louisiana’s commercial citrus industry and the growing and harvesting of citrus by citizens of Louisiana for their own private use.

Louisiana’s commercial citrus industry adds \$7.5 - \$10 million dollars to the state’s agriculture economy each year. Sales of citrus trees and plants by nursery stock dealers to private individuals also are important to the state’s economy. The loss of the state’s commercial citrus industry and privately owned citrus trees and fruit would be devastating to the state’s economy and to its private citizens. The quarantine established by this emergency regulation is necessary to prevent the spread of CG in Louisiana outside of the current areas where this disease has already been found.

For these reasons, the outbreak CG in Louisiana presents an imminent peril to the health, safety and welfare of Louisiana’s citizens and the state’s commercial and private citrus industry. As a result of this imminent peril, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry hereby exercises its full and plenary power pursuant to R.S. 3:1652 to deal with crop and fruit pests and contagious and infectious crop and fruit diseases by imposing the quarantines set out in these emergency regulations.

This Rule shall have the force and effect of law upon signature, and will remain in effect 120 days, unless renewed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry or until permanent rules are promulgated in accordance with law.

Title 7

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Part XV. Plant Protection and Quarantine

Chapter 1. Crop Pests and Diseases

Subchapter B. Nursery Stock Quarantines

§127. Citrus Nursery Stock, Scions and Budwood

A. - D.1. ...

2. Quarantined Areas. The quarantined areas in this state are the parishes of Orleans, Washington, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and any other areas found to be infested with CG. The declaration of any other specific parishes or areas shall be published in the official journal of the state and in the *Louisiana Register*.

D.3. - G.3. ...

AUTHORITYNOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1652.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, LR 11:320 (April 1985), amended by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, LR 40:1308 (July 2014), LR 42:730 (May 2016), LR 44:439 (March 2018), LR 45:

Mike Strain DVM
Commissioner

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