

Fresh Fruit Regulatory Options Based on the Citrus Black Spot Pest Risk Assessment



Perspective of FDACS-DPI and What Florida Can Contribute to the Discussion

Citrus Packinghouse Day Lake Alfred, FL
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How much do we know?

- What the circumstances of CBS discovery in Florida tell us
- Value and importance of CHRP surveys
- Survey timing must match symptom expression
- Adequacy of survey and diagnostics
- Most of the critical aspects of the pathogen life cycle are understood

What additional information would be helpful?

- Can we detect latent infections efficiently?
- How far does inoculum travel naturally? How long does it survive after dispersal?
- Does the Florida environment rot foliage too quickly for optimum inoculum production?
- Could the possibility of post-harvest fruit lesions be predicted accurately?
- How did CBS establish in this remote area of Florida?
- Are climate models for establishment prediction elsewhere good enough?
- How quickly will CBS spread in Florida? Is it along the transport corridors?

What is required to transmit the CBS pathogen to a new area?

- Consider form & source of inoculum, how it could be transported
- Elimination of inoculum with product (grading)
- Likelihood of arrival of inoculum in a citrus location
- Suitability of the climate for disease at destination
- Proximity of final resting place of inoculum source to suitable host is within range of dispersal
- Host at destination is in vulnerable stage of growth
- Precise microclimate exists for all infection events

The critical issue ...

- Science should decide (USDA and IPPC policy); economics and politics are secondary.
- Systems and methods to reduce CBS transmission risks via fresh fruit to near zero are realistic, practical and achievable.
- A purely scientific process can certainly find a practical & affordable way to safely permit FL fresh fruit to markets in both non-citrus producing and even citrus producing areas in the United States.
- BUT - A growing volume of foreign fruit from CBS endemic areas would have similar access – IF they meet these and all other requirements.