



Citrus Greening: Perspectives from Florida and California

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Key Points:

- **Citrus greening results from Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) infestation and threatens the major citrus producing regions of the U.S., including Florida, California, and other southern states**
- **Citrus greening reduces productivity, deforms the fruit, and ultimately kills citrus trees**
- **There is currently no known treatment for the disease, so current strategies focus on controlling or eliminating the vector (ACP)**
- **The most successful modes of prevention involve aggressive spraying and tree removal to control the psyllid populations**
- **Residential homeowners tend to be less diligent in monitoring and caring for their backyard citrus trees, which poses a risk to commercial growers in maintaining the integrity of their groves**
- **California has many areas of ACP infestation but so far no known cases of the Citrus greening disease**
- **Organic insecticides are less effective against ACP, which threatens overall containment of the vector and the production status (and related margins) of California's organic producers**
- **Ongoing research to treat and eventually eradicate the disease is focusing on development of a vaccine, creation of resistant varieties and root stock, and genetic engineering**

Introduction

Within today's prosperous U.S. agricultural economy, the citrus industry continues to be a solid performer. The 2009/10 U.S. citrus crop was valued at \$2.9 billion, up 5 percent from the previous season, with citrus groves in Florida and California accounting for over 95 percent of the nation's total output. During the past several seasons, total citrus production nationwide has been on a slight downward trend, but the value of citrus crop sales has been growing at a strong pace. Domestic demand for U.S. citrus products remains strong, particularly for mandarin oranges and tangerines; and U.S. citrus exports have also been robust with expanding markets in Canada, Japan, South Korea, and Russia.