CITRUS GROVE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Citrus Grove Protection Program (CGPP) will be protecting Citrus Groves through regular bulk tree screening for CLas. This will allow for the identification and removal of HLB hot spots, in order to stop HLB from gaining a foothold in citrus groves

Bulk Citrus Screening Process

- TES developed a bulk process that allows for screening over 32 citrus trees at a time.
  - <u>At a fraction</u> of the current qPCR tree <u>testing cost.</u>
  - <u>Comparable sensitivity</u> to standard tree testing protocols
- CGPP incorporates a state-of-the-art data management system and control metrics.

HLB Hot Spot Screening Methodology

- Hot spot identification will begin with bulk screening of the border trees within groves.
  - HLB typically starts on the border of one's grove, especially along roadways.
  - If a bulk sample has a suspect positive, the individual trees will be screened.
- If a positive is found, all the trees within a 250 meter radii will be bulk screened.
- Once suspect trees are identified through bulk and individual qPCR testing, the hot trees will be verified by an external lab, which uses conventional qPCR methods.
- Our goal is to find and remove hot spots before they fester. To accomplish this, wide spread regular screening is required.

Criteria For Being a Citrus Grove Under CGPP Protection

- A grower utilizing TES's services must agree to the infected tree being pulled once confirmation by a secondary lab has been made.
- Grower needs to be in an area that is at high risk for having HLB. We define this as a grove within 2 miles of a known HLB infected tree or hot psyllid find.
- TES reserves the right not to screen any grower. This can occur due to limited capacity.

Cost to Grower

- Currently TES is offering this service for free
- In the future, we are targeting $2.5 per tree
- TES requests growers do the petiole collection
- This offer is good for limited time

Contact Us

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