

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Horticulture and Quarantine Programs

Citrus Canker Disease Quarantine (LAC 7:XV.127)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953.1, 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 adding St. Charles Parish to the existing quarantined areas for citrus greening disease (“CG”), also known as Huanglongbing disease of citrus, caused by the bacterial pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp and also adding a portion of St. Martin Parish to the existing quarantined areas for Citrus Canker Disease (“CC”) caused by the bacterial pathogens *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *Citri* and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *aurantifolii*. The state entomologist has determined that CG and CC has been found in this state and may be prevented, controlled, or eradicated by quarantine in certain parishes.

CG and CC poses an imminent peril to the health and welfare of the Louisiana commercial citrus industry due to their 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. CC causes premature leaf and fruit drop, twig dieback and tree decline in citrus trees and is spread by wind-driven rain or through the movement of infected plants. Failure to prevent, control, or eradicate these pests 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 and CC in Louisiana outside of the current areas where these diseases have 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 set forth in R.S. 49:953.1(A)(1)(a). 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 180 days, unless renewed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry or until permanent rules are promulgated in accordance with law.

Title 7.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS

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. - C. ...

D. Citrus Greening

1. ...

2. Quarantined Areas. The quarantined areas in this state are the parishes of Orleans, Washington, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Charles, 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. - E. ...

F. Citrus Canker Disease Quarantine

1. - 3. ...

4. Quarantined areas in this state include:

a. ...

b. the portion of St. Martin Parish bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Smede Hwy. and Vieux Chene Drive; then head east on Smede Hwy. to Duchamp Road; from Duchamp Road, head north to the GPS coordinates 30.097187, -91.922952; then head west in a straight line to GPS coordinates 30.097103, -91.929205; then head south to the intersection of Smede Hwy. and Vieux Chene Drive.

c. A declaration of quarantine for CC covering any other specific parishes or areas of this state shall be published in the official journal of the state and in the *Louisiana Register*.

F.5. - G.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1652.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, LR 11:319 (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 45:1435 (October 2019), LR 48:

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Commissioner

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