



February 27, 2018

## ADVISORY

### Bactericides Approved for Use in Southern California

California Citrus Exporters:

The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) is contacting the citrus industry to notify it that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use of two specific bactericides, FireWall (active ingredient streptomycin) and FireLine (active ingredient-oxytetracycline), for managing Huanglongbing (HLB) in commercial citrus groves in certain counties in southern California.

Only groves meeting the following conditions may be treated:

- Groves located within an HLB quarantine area;
- Groves that are up to 15 miles adjacent to a quarantine area (up to 15 miles outside of a quarantine area); or
- Groves that within 15 miles of a positive CLas (HLB pathogen) detection in an Asian citrus psyllid (ACP).

Growers may use these bactericides in the approved counties if they meet one of the three conditions listed above.

EPA has limited the use to counties that have a high probability of meeting these conditions over the next year. These counties include **Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura**. However, if the conditions are met in other counties, CCQC has been advised that the emergency use can be amended to include the affected county. Thus, the county list can be expanded by DPR if new outbreaks of HLB occur in citrus or if an ACP-positive detection for CLas (HLB pathogen) occurs in other counties.

**Please contact your county agricultural commissioner for information on use rates and to acquire a permit, which is required to make bactericide applications.**

**Bactericides do not cure HLB.** However, when used with other essential measures such as psyllid control, there is a high probability that such a program will significantly slow the spread of HLB. To minimize the spread and impact of HLB, growers should implement the following practices:

- Monitor for ACP and use early HLB detection technologies (when available)
- Implement aggressive ACP control using insecticide treatments
- Judicious use of these two bactericides for managing the disease
  - Applied in 21 day intervals starting at spring or fall flush (40 day PHI interval)
  - Four applications in the spring alternating between the two bactericides - FireWall and FireLine (2 of each)
  - Two applications in the fall alternating between the two bactericides (1 of each)
- Root health promotion using precise irrigation and *Phytophthora* fungicides
- Remove trees that are designated positive by state-approved disease detection thresholds using molecular methods

Please consult the attached document that outlines specifics on how to use bactericides and its place in an integrated IPM program. This information will be posted on CCQC's website.

Please contact me by phone at (530) 885-1894 or via email at [jcranney@ccqc.org](mailto:jcranney@ccqc.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards,  
Jim

Attachments: IPM of HLB and ACP in California Citrus