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STATE OF ALABAMA
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PRESS RELEASE

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Plant Disease Inspectors to Survey for Citrus Greening in Dauphin Island Area

Montgomery, Ala. - Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) Plant Protection inspectors, along with USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) officers and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture inspectors, will begin conducting a survey for a harmful plant disease on Dauphin Island, Ala. Inspectors will be searching for citrus plants with symptoms of citrus-greening disease (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*), also known as Huanglongbing (HLB). The disease poses a serious threat to the citrus industry nationwide. The public's assistance is needed in finding citrus plants in and around residences in the area.

The survey will begin Monday, June 26, and last through Friday, June 30. Inspectors will cover Dauphin Island and Cedar Point. It is necessary for personnel to go door-to-door to conduct the survey because the citrus grown on Dauphin Island is all found on residential property. Surveyors will contact homeowners in the targeted areas and provide information about citrus greening and its insect vector, the Asian citrus psyllid.

Surveyors will carry photo identification and credentials from their respective agencies.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the extent that citrus greening exists in Alabama. Although it is significant threat to citrus plants, it poses no risk to people. The fruit from diseased plants is safe to eat but has an unpleasant, bitter taste.

Two citrus plants positive for citrus greening were found on Dauphin Island during ADAI's routine spring survey earlier this month. Officials ask for the public's help in locating citrus plants. It is vital to determine the extent of citrus greening disease on Dauphin Island in order to prevent it from reaching Alabama's commercial citrus groves.

It is not always possible to detect diseased plants by sight, as symptoms may be difficult to identify. To report possible symptomatic trees on your property, residents can contact the ADAI Plant Protection Division at 334-202-1781 to arrange an inspection of suspect trees.

For more information about the delimiting survey, please contact Christel Harden by email at christel.harden@agi.alabama.gov or by phone at 334-240-7226.

If you have questions concerning Asian citrus psyllids or citrus greening, contact your local Extension office (<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/E/EX-0021/EX-0021.pdf>) or the Auburn University Plant Diagnostic Lab (<http://offices.aces.edu/plantlabauburn/>).

For more information about citrus pests and diseases in the U.S., visit the USDA website: www.SaveOurCitrus.org.