

### 9.10 Area-Wide Management of Asian Citrus Psyllid in Southwest Florida

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“Dormant” sprays of broad spectrum insecticides have proven to be an effective tool for suppressing overwintering adult psyllid populations in Florida, reducing their entry populations in the spring flush and resulting in significant reductions still detectable well into the growing season. This tactic appears to have the greatest effect when applied area wide. Over 70,000 acres were sprayed at least once by air and most of the remainder by ground in southwest Florida as a cooperative effort during the dormant seasons of 2008-09 and 2009-10. Psyllid populations in late May had still not increased significantly from winter levels in treated orchards, whereas a 17-fold increase was seen in untreated blocks in 2009. Future plans are to expand the program to include area-wide scouting with the objective of tracking psyllid populations throughout the region, pinpointing problem areas, and assisting growers in making informed decisions on a block-by-block basis during the growing season.