Greening-infected citrus trees destroyed in south Texas

02/10/2012 10:16:24 AM
By The Grower Staff

A total of 14 citrus trees infected with citrus greening in south Texas have been destroyed by the owner.

Nine Valencia trees and five nearby grapefruit trees were removed, according to a news release.

The owner of the grove near San Juan, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been cooperative and supportive of the area-wide psyllid control program, according to the release.

Growers along the Rio Grande River have voluntarily participated in an area-wide spray program for more than two years.

The goal is to have everyone treat at the same time so Asian citrus psyllids from a treated grove can’t seek the safety of a nearby untreated grove.

Asian citrus psyllids spread the greening bacterium, which is harmless to humans but devastating to citrus and related plants.

More than 80 percent of the growers are participating in the area-wide program, according to Texas A&M University.

An zone within 5 miles of the greening finds has been designated a quarantine, which regulates the movement of plants within and out of the area.

Commercial growers who want to harvest fruit within the quarantine must treat groves with a pyrethroid one to two days before harvest.

Then workers must sort the fruit and pick out any leaves or stems before placing the fruit in bins.

The bins must be covered during transport and must be cleaned before being reused.

The challenge is educating homeowners about not moving plant material within or in and out of the quarantine area, according to Texas A&M experts.

Find this article at:

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.