Second insecticide labeled for low-volume citrus psyllid control in Texas

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By Grower staff

A second insecticide for the Asian citrus psyllid has received registration for low-volume application in Texas—Danitol from Valent U.S.A. It joins Malathion 5 for low-volume use in the Lone Star state, according to a news release.

"At low volumes, a grove can be completely sprayed in a relatively short period of time, giving psyllids very little time to move out of harm's way," Mamoudou Setamou, a citrus entomologist at the Texas A&M-Kingsville Citrus Center in Weslaco, said in the release. "When a product is applied at high volumes, it takes a lot of time and energy, enough time for psyllids to move to another part of the grove where perhaps the effect of the insecticide has already worn off.”

Asian citrus psyllid spread the bacterial disease citrus greening, also known as huanglongbing. The goal is to keep psyllia numbers as low as possible, thereby reducing the chance of possible disease spread. The insect has been found in several states, including Texas, California, Louisiana and Florida.

Citrus greening is lethal to citrus trees but harmless to humans.

Greening has been found in Florida, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina but not Texas.

Low-volume spray equipment for growers is available for loan through Texas Citrus Mutual, says Ray Prewett, president of Texas Citrus Mutual in Mission.

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