



California Citrus Nursery Board

Registration and Certification Protocol Committee

Minutes of Meeting

March 1, 2016

A meeting of the California Citrus Nursery Board's Registration and Certification Protocol Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Bob Zuckerman at 9:02 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia CA. Role was taken and a quorum was established with the following in attendance:

Members

Sean Dayyani
Georgios Vidalakis
Bob Zuckerman

Government Representatives

Dominique Ayers, USDA
Tanya Goodson, CDFA
Danny Hamon, USDA
Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA
Joshua Kress, CDFA
Tracey Novak-Marin, USDA
Nawal Sharma, CDFA
Helene Wright, USDA

Nursery Representatives

CJ Buxman, Genesis Nursery
Jessica Cesar, Brokaw Nursery
Aaron Dillon, Four Winds Nursery
Leonard Massey, B&Z Nursery
Gary Moles, Willits & Newcomb Nursery
Tia Russell, Duarte Nursery
Roger van Klaveren, Generation Growers
Kim Wilenius, C & M Nursery

Guests

Tom Delfino, CA Citrus Nursery Society
Jackie Maxwell, Lyn Citrus Seed

Staff

JD Allen, Assistant Manager
John Gilstrap, Manager

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Vidalakis and a second by Dayyani, the minutes of May 29, 2014, December 11, 2014, and February 12, 2015 were unanimously approved.

Registration Program

Testing Schedule: Kress provided a handout (Exhibit A) outlining the testing schedule for Tristeza, HLB, Viroids, and Psorosis.

Zuckerman commented that the schedule was confusing to nurseries. The interpretation from CDFA seems to be if you have a positive result, you go on a program of testing each mother tree every 3 years (1/3 of the nursery inventory every year) and if you never had a positive, you go on a program of testing each tree every 6 years. Zuckerman said after testing negative 3 years in a row, you should be moved to a schedule of testing every 6 years.

Kress asked for comments from the industry on this matter and the consensus was that they agreed with Zuckerman that after being clean for 3 consecutive years it would make

sense to move to a 6 year schedule. Kress said that he agreed and would make the suggested changes.

Testing Cost/Single and Multi: Kress said multi testing is more expensive but, if testing a tree the plan was to test for everything since it becomes too difficult to separate trees which need individual tests. An individual HLB test costs about \$20 whereas the full range of tests costs \$67.

Annual Testing: Vidalakis explained that some states are going back to annual testing for HLB. Arizona is still testing every year and California may be forced to test annually because Arizona and California are treated as one region. He suggested that it may be possible for CDFA to convince Arizona to conform to the California testing schedule but, it was likely that we would be forced to test annually for HLB by Federal regulations unless the industry could provide guidance and convince the authorities that such frequent testing was not necessary.

Testing Capabilities and Priorities: Hornbaker said HLB testing is a priority but, CDFA has just one lab certified to conduct the tests. CDFA has looked into moving some of the other lab duties to labs in Arizona and found it to be cost prohibitive. Hornbaker said the Citrus Research Board was in the process of having their lab re-certified. Vidalakis was questioned about the UCR lab and he said he would contact USDA and look into the certification process. Kress added that lab costs would most likely go up due to the amount of demand but, if the USDA determines that seeds are not a mode of transmission, some of the testing stress would be relieved.

Goodson remarked that it is a problem for field personnel if HLB testing is done each year and other testing is done every 3 years. Vidalakis said the field personnel should just collect samples of all trees and the lab will determine the needed tests. This requires that all samples be budwood with leaves.

Massey commented that sometimes it was advantageous for the nursery if sampling is done more than one time per year. Goodson said that sampling more than one time per year might be an issue since the real costs are more than the nurseries are charged. Dillion said a reasonable fee schedule that covers the costs should be developed, then the nursery can make a business decision on whether or not to do additional sampling. Goodson said that even if the fee schedule were adjusted, CDFA may not have the capability to sample more often. Hornbaker confirmed that the CDFA lab capacity was nearly maxed out. Vidalakis asked whether or not his lab should investigate being certified to expand options and the consensus was an overwhelming affirmative.

(At 10:45 the meeting took a break, and it was reconvened at 11:05)

Quarantine Issues

The group discussed a wide range of issues regarding movement and quarantine. Hornbaker said the Regulatory Working Group (RWG) looked at the issue of defaulting to a state wide quarantine which would put intra-state movements in the jurisdiction of CDFA instead of USDA. She explained that it is most likely that eventually the entire state will be quarantined anyway which will relax shipping regulations within the state but, interstate movement would still be regulated by USDA. Wright commented that inspections could become an issue because CDFA would not be permitted to charge individual entities for inspections if the entire state is quarantined. She was unsure where the money for testing would come from.

A current map showing California quarantine status was distributed (Exhibit B). This map was reworked because the original quarantine map made no distinction between fruit movement and nursery movement.

Sharma said that at this time, since the entire state is not under quarantine, the State has the option of establishing quarantines with a 5 mile radius or, they could quarantine an entire county. Hornbaker said if anyone had comments on that subject she would need to have them by Friday if they were to be presented at her meeting in San Bernardino on the 9th. Hornbaker then explained the regulatory process by listing the steps taken by CDFA when considering regulations:

1. The Regulatory Working Group Develops ideas.
2. Representatives of the group meet with industry members to get information.
3. A text of the regulation is proposed.
4. Comments are solicited on the proposed change.
5. Final decision is made and implemented.

(At 12:10pm the meeting was recessed for lunch, and it reconvened at 1:00pm)

Retail Issues

The attendees discussed some issue regarding retail nurseries and Wilenius suggested to a shelf life of 150 days at which point the tree must be treated again or destroyed. Federal regulations also require treatment 30 days prior to shipping which several of the meeting attendees claim has been scientifically proven to be unnecessary. USDA representatives said they would look into the available science. Kress said any changes in the California retail protocol would have to go through the regular rule making process, including making sure the funding is available to support any new regulation. Zuckerman and Dillon pointed out that the retail regulations were unclear compared to the nursery regulations. For example; there was not a definition for a retail viable structure. Some large retailers have their product inside but, their facilities do not have any measures to prevent psyllids from entering. Currently they can treat the product one time and do not have to do it again even if the tree stays in their inventory for a year. The Committee was in general agreement that a hard time limit should be instituted such as the 6 month time limit in Florida.

Definition of Propagative Material: Zuckerman noted that in the federal regulations USDA does not distinguish between citrus nursery stock and propagative material. He suggested that a distinction should be made as it is with CDFA regulations. Wright asked for the CDFA wording to be sent to her so she could discuss it with others at USDA.

Communication

Several citrus nursery representatives expressed frustration over the availability of information. Finding current regulations is not convenient. Kress agreed that there should be a page on the CDFA website dedicated to the citrus nursery industry, and he acknowledged the difficulty in obtaining information. Earlier attempts to make the Citrus Nursery Board website a one stop place for all regulation failed partly because it was too difficult to find the information on the CDFA site and provide the proper links. However Kress said he has been working to find all of the relevant information and should be able to have it all in one convenient place relatively soon. He noted that some things such as compliance agreements would not be available online. Zuckerman pointed out that CDFA should take a more proactive role in disseminating information to nurseries when changes are made instead of nurseries being responsible to check every day to find changes. Kress said letters could be sent but feared some nurseries would be omitted from the list and then would be at a disadvantage.

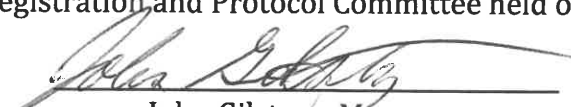
The group discussed a plan for more frequent meetings with industry and regulatory personnel from CDFA and USDA. Zuckerman reminded everyone that at previous meetings they had discussed possible pre-season, mid-season, and post-season meetings. Hornbaker and Wright said they would see what could be worked out.

Dillon asked if USDA and CDFA had an appropriate response to a breach? Kress said the protocol was to repair the breach as quickly as possible, and if it cannot be repaired immediately the trees should be covered. Also contact CDFA and USDA immediately don't make the decision to treat until USDA has made an inspection. USDA will send an inspector to look for psyllids and inspect the repair.

Vidalakis gave a brief update of his program at the CCPP. He said he was working on some things at UC Riverside but did not wish to go into details until the official announcement is made. He also said he was working on a way to order online, to make obtaining rootstock and seedlings easier.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded at 2:32 pm.

I, John Gilstrap, Manager of the California Citrus Nursery Board do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Citrus Nursery Board's Registration and Protocol Committee held on March 1, 2016.


John Gilstrap, Manager

3701.6. Inspection and Testing Procedures.

(d) Testing. Tests shall be conducted as described in Table 1 unless the Department approves or requires changes.

(1) Mother trees and mother lines shall be tested as follows:

(A) Field-grown registered mother trees shall be tested by the Department annually for Tristeza and Huanglongbing, at least once every 36 months for viroids and at least once every 72 months for psorosis.

(B) Registered mother trees and mother lines, maintained in a departmentally approved insect-resistant structure meeting the requirements of Section 3701.5, shall be tested as follows:

1. For Tristeza and Huanglongbing:

A. Prior to their first use as a propagative source but no later than 72 months from date of propagation, the trees and mother lines shall be tested for Tristeza and Huanglongbing, and for the next two consecutive years following this initial testing.

B. Thereafter, to be used as propagative sources, the trees and mother lines shall have been tested within the previous three years for Tristeza and within the previous six years for Huanglongbing unless the disease is detected in the State. If Huanglongbing is detected in the State, the trees shall have been tested within the previous 36 months for Huanglongbing.

C. Registered trees not in current use as propagative sources must be tested at least once every six years to be eligible to remain in the program.

2. For Viroids:

A. Beginning January 1, 2013, to be used as propagative sources, the trees and mother lines shall have been tested within the previous three years, with the following exception,

B. Beginning January 1, 2016, mother trees and mother lines maintained in insect-resistant structures within which no trees have tested positive for viroids shall be tested prior to their first use as a propagative source and at least once every six years thereafter.

3. For psorosis: At least once every six years.

(C) In addition to the above, mother trees or mother lines found to be infected with the citrus variant of the HSVd, citrus viroid IIa (CVd-IIa, Non-cachexia variant) shall be tested to ensure the sequence similarity of the detected CVd-IIa with the Department approved growth modifying Tsn-RNA IIa.

(2) Seed trees shall be tested at least every six years for Huanglongbing, psorosis A & B and citrus leaf blotch virus.

Regional Quarantine Regions for Nursey Movement

