

Biosecurity Advice

Pest

Xanthomonas citri Citrus Canker

Date

Apr 2018

Location

Northern Territory

Current Situation

- The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is working closely with the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources following strong evidence of a detection of citrus canker in Darwin.
- To manage any potential risks to Australia's industries and trade, emergency biosecurity measures have been activated immediately and further planning and traceability work is underway. The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources is the lead agency for the response.
- The department is notifying key trading partners and will continue to work with industry and Australia's trading partners to ensure all importing country requirements are met.
- The department has not issued any certification for the export of citrus material from Darwin in 2018.
- The majority of Australia's citrus production areas are geographically isolated from the detection. The detection was made in a peri-urban area that is more than 2,500 kilometres away from key citrus producing areas in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.
- Media release from the Department of Agriculture is available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/citrus-canker-nt>

Biosecurity and reporting

- This is a timely reminder for growers to ensure their on-farm biosecurity measures. More information is available at farmbiosecurity.com.au. For nursery industry specific programs refer to nurseryproductionfms.com.au
- If you see citrus plants with unusual disease symptoms or suspect Citrus Canker in your crop phone the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**. This will put you in touch with your department of primary industries or agriculture.

- There are specific rules and regulations about the movement of fruit and plants between states and territories, or within states and territories. For more information visit Australian Interstate Quarantine website <http://www.interstatequarantine.org.au/>

About the bacteria

- Citrus canker is a contagious disease of citrus (and some other plant species of the Rutaceae family) caused by the bacteria *Xanthomonas citri*. Infected trees display unsightly lesions which can form on leaves, fruit and stems.
- Trees infected with the disease may suffer from low vigour and reduced fruit quality and quantity. Citrus canker is a serious disease impacting on citrus production and is the subject of control and eradication programs around the world.
- Information about citrus Canker can be found at;
 - Department of Agriculture and Water Resources <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/citrus-canker#secure-any-suspect-specimens>
 - Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/health-pests-diseases/a-z-significant/citrus-canker>