

PEST: Citrus Leprosis Virus

BASIC PROFILE: CLV is a viral citrus disease affecting mainly oranges and mandarins. It occurs in South & Central America as far north as Belize and may find its way into the U.S. Symptoms include rings of chlorotic tissue on leaves and fruit. Rings darken over time. Stems and twigs may develop lesions or scales, causing premature fruit and leaf drop and twig dieback. CLV is vectored by several tiny *Brevipalpus* spp. (false spider mites) although some mechanical transmission also is suspected. Control measures include pruning, destruction of infected trees and continuous mite control. The biggest threat for CLV introduction into the U.S. is movement of infected tree stock and/or mites.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts routine visual inspections of citrus fruit and citrus nursery stock at marketplace locations (looking for plants which are prohibited or for diseased fruit symptoms) and at nursery grower / NSD locations (examining citrus stock for symptoms and checking plant origin paperwork). When prohibited plants or diseased fruit are found, stop sales are issued and the material is usually destroyed or may be returned to origin. Citrus stock from out of state is banned. LDAF may also conduct specific surveys for CLV as part of a larger, citrus-producing state survey.

