

**PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MITIGATING THE SPREAD OF CITRUS GREENING  
DISEASE (HLB) IN SOUTH TEXAS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Huanglongbing (HLB) was first detected in a commercial sweet orange grove in January 2012 in San Juan, Texas. Subsequent HLB detections in residential trees in San Juan (June 2012), Mission (September 2013), and La Blanca (February 2014) clearly indicate that backyard citrus can constitute a reservoir of both the disease and its psyllid vector. With citrus present in 70 to 90% of residential properties, it was necessary to conduct educational outreach involving residents to create awareness on HLB and its psyllid vector, and educate them on psyllid control methods as well as other strategies to prevent the spread of this disease. Residents participated in educational events and cooperated in biological control efforts, resulting in the increased utilization of the parasite *Tamarixia radiata* against the Asian Citrus Psyllid and the ability to share parasites with scientists in Mexico.

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