
Canker Decontamination Reminder

Dave Palmer - Extension Agent I - Hillsborough County Extension Service

There is a requirement by DACS that landscapers and other horticulture professionals in Dade and Broward Counties decontaminate themselves and their equipment every time they leave a property containing even one citrus tree. Remember, like Dade and Broward, there is also a citrus canker quarantine area in southern Hillsborough County. See the map at :

<http://doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/canker/maps.htm>



To avoid the spread of this disease, horticulture professionals (landscape, pest control or arborists) that may work within the quarantine area in residential or commercial properties containing citrus must decontaminate. The Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) reminds them that :

In order to prevent the spread of citrus canker disease, it is essential that personnel or equipment working in citrus nurseries, groves, or near any citrus plants be decontaminated, regardless of whether or not an infestation has been proven to exist. How do you decontaminate? DACS says:

Equipment

Equipment should be regularly pressure-washed with detergent and inspected for freedom from plant debris and soil residue, then further disinfected with one of the following quaternary ammonium compounds listed below. The undercarriage of the equipment should also be cleaned and disinfected.

Personnel

Risks of acquiring and dispersing canker inoculum are greatest when diseased citrus plant material and surrounding vegetation are wet. It is always wise to avoid unnecessary



contact.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, Florida A. & M. UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.

All workers should disinfect hands, arms and any other part of the body that has contacted citrus and surrounding vegetation, plus any clothing, gloves, shoes, small personal items (pen, hand lens, glasses, pocketknife, etc.) that have come in contact with risky plant material using one of the following prescribed products in accordance with label directions. (Larger equipment should be treated with the products described in the EQUIPMENT section.) It is important that the users of these products **READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL DIRECTIONS** because some products are for skin use only, and call for a follow-up water rinse, or soap and water hand washing **BEFORE** use of the product. Others are one-step no rinse products, and can also be applied to clothing while being worn. Allow the no-rinse products to air-dry. For hands, use normal hand washing action for 20 to 30 seconds, paying special attention to fingernails and between fingers. some products are in a formulation that can be applied to clothing and shoes using a spray dispenser. With all products, avoid contact with eyes.



While the full list of decontamination chemicals is on the DACS website noted above, one of the alternatives to the specialty chemicals follows:

Household Bleach (Chlorine) A solution for decontamination of tools and equipment can be made using household bleach. Apply 200 ppm to all surfaces to the point of run-off and maintain a pH of 6.0 to 7.5. Most solutions made with 1 ounce of bleach to 1 gallon of water meet this criteria. This solution loses its strength in approximately 2 to 3 days during hot weather months.

(Source: <http://doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/canker/decontamination.pdf>)