

January 26, 2017

California Citrus Exporters,

The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) is providing new information on how to comply with Korean and Chinese protocols regarding copper applications.

Significant rainfall in most growing regions has made it difficult for growers to make copper applications in compliance with the Korea and China protocols. We are sending updated information that provides greater latitude for growers to make required treatments while maintaining compliance with the Korea and China protocols.

## **China (Phytophthora)**

Given the climatic conditions this season, the deadline for the second copper application for Navel and Valencia oranges in the San Joaquin Valley and southern California will be on Feb. 4. The deadline for the first application of copper for early-season Valencia oranges grown in the desert region (Imperial County and Eastern Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) is Feb. 21.

Due to the frequency and volume of rainfall in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California many growers have not been able get equipment into groves to make copper applications, so a significant amount of navel and Valencia orange acreage may not meet the China protocol deadlines.

APHIS has agreed to provide packers and growers additional options to comply with the protocol and still qualify shipments for export to China if certain additional conditions are met.

## **Valencia Oranges**

### **Imperial County and Eastern Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (Expected harvest dates – Feb through April)**

- Copper applications must be made by **Feb. 21**. There is likely to be sufficient time to make applications in this region, so no additional options are required at this time.

### **San Joaquin Valley and Southern California (Expected harvest dates – May through September)**

- Packers should evaluate groves to determine when they are likely to be harvested.
- Growers would need to make a second copper application **only if** rain is expected within 2 months of the expected harvest date.
- This approach can be justified, because brown rot infections, including latent infections, would be realized within two months of the last rainfall, so all infected fruit would have fallen from the tree before harvest.
- Other measures in the China protocol must still be followed, such as skirt pruning, harvesting fruit above 20 inches and monitoring groves for disease one week prior to harvest at recommended threshold values for Tulare (0 diseased fruit/A) and other citrus-producing counties ( $\leq 5$  diseased fruit/A).

## **Navel Oranges**

### **San Joaquin Valley and Southern California**

- Growers that are unable to make applications by the Feb. 4 deadline have the option to delay copper applications until Feb. 18. However, if the copper application is delayed, exporting fruit to China from that grove must be delayed for 30 days from the date of the copper application.
- Growers and packers that choose this option are also encouraged to monitor groves prior to harvest to assess the efficacy of the copper treatment and to avoid export of fruit from groves that exceed the Phytophthora threshold of Tulare (0 diseased fruit/A) and other citrus-producing counties ( $\leq 5$  diseased fruit/A).
- A 30-day delay in harvesting would allow infections to develop and fall from the tree prior to harvest.
- All other measures in the China protocol must be followed.