

2016–2017
Standard Operating Procedures
For
**Phytophthora Management for Tulare County and Tulare County Grown Citrus
Only**

Grove personnel responsible: _____

Packinghouse personnel responsible: _____

1. Growers will skirt prune trees to significantly reduce the risk of *Phytophthora* infections; no fruit will be harvested below 50 cm (20 inches) for export to China.
2. Each packinghouse must have a Standard Operating Procedure documenting how fruit harvested above and below 50 cm (20 inches) will be separated when fruit is destined for China.
3. Copper applications must be made at the beginning of the season after the first rain fall between Oct. 15 and Nov. 30th, and mandatory additional applications will be made as environmental conditions dictate and as stipulated by the University of California and communicated to the industry. Packinghouses will notify growers when applications should be made.
4. Copper applications must cover the entire tree to prevent infections of both *Phytophthora syringae* and *P. hibernalis*.
5. Packinghouses must keep copper-spray, monitoring and incubation records and provide those records to APHIS upon request; including prior to phytosanitary inspection if requested.
6. Designated packinghouse personnel must ensure compliance by visiting groves for export to China prior to harvest. A list of those individuals must be made available to APHIS upon request.
7. Grove monitoring is mandatory. While the protocol is not specific with regard to how monitoring should be conducted, we are strongly recommending that the industry follow these guidelines very closely so *Phytophthora* is managed in a conservative manner. Even a small number of interceptions can result in future market closures.
8. The minimum requirement is to monitor groves one week before harvest, so an assessment can be made whether to ship fruit to China. Records must be kept on monitoring conducted one week before harvest.
9. Groves are eligible for shipments to China if **zero** symptomatic brown rot fruit per acre are found above 50 cm (20 inches) from the ground during monitoring. **If any brown rot symptomatic fruit are detected, the fruit from that grove should not be shipped to China and the grove is suspended for the 2015-2016 season.**

10. In addition to monitoring, fruit incubation is required for Tulare County groves only. Two weeks before harvest, fruit should be collected above 50 cm (20 inches) from the ground for each grower lot as follows:
 - 100 fruit for the first 12.35 acres (5 hectares) and 30 fruit for each additional 12.35 acres (5 hectares) for each orchard block. (For example, collect 190 fruit for a 42 acre block)
 - Incubate the fruit for two weeks at 5 C (41 F)
 - Evaluate fruit for brown rot decay. If any brown rot is found, the lot is ineligible for shipment to China
 - Packinghouses should keep records on their incubation results
11. Since incubation will be for brown rot (any *Phytophthora* species) the use of test strips will not be necessary. Test strips are only necessary to distinguish among *Phytophthora* species. Any species of *Phytophthora* that is found during incubation will disqualify the lot for shipment to China.
12. Fruit bins in which fruit are transported from the grove to the packinghouse should be free of soil.
13. Fruit must be treated with a fungicide prior to packing for export to China. Packinghouses must have spray records available and will provide records to Chinese inspectors when necessary.
14. Select suspicious fruit during processing and packing procedures. If *Phytophthora syringae* or *P. hibernalis* are found, the production lot will not allowed to be exported to China and the related grove will be suspended.
15. Prior to export, a 3% sample should be taken. If *Phytophthora syringae* or *P. hibernalis* are found, the production lot will not allowed to be exported to China and the related grove will be suspended for the 2015-2016 season.
16. Phytosanitary Certificates should include a declaration stating [This shipment complies with "The Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements of California Citrus Exported to China"](#) , ["Supplementary Inspection and Quarantine Requirements for California Citrus to be exported to China"](#) and ["Supplementary Inspection and Quarantine Requirements for California Citrus to be exported to China II"](#).