

Eradication of citrus canker

Background

The National Citrus Canker Eradication Program, was implemented by Queensland's Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries following the detection of the disease on an Emerald property in June 2004.

Surveillance conducted throughout the Eradication Program, including after replanting of affected orchards, has shown that no citrus canker remains in the Emerald Pest Quarantine Area.

The National Management Group has accepted the recommendation of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests that the Emerald area be declared officially free from citrus canker as of 23 January 2009.



*Fruit symptoms of citrus canker
(source: DPIF Queensland)*

Summary of current situation

All Australian states and territories have agreed to remove interstate trade restrictions, and will allow Emerald citrus back into their markets.

Victoria has rescinded the entry requirements for citrus from Emerald.

Biosecurity Australia is negotiating with international trading partners to seek recognition of pest free area status for citrus canker, and to allow Queensland citrus back into their markets.

The successful eradication of citrus canker is a significant achievement for structured emergency management. However, the program could not have succeeded without the expertise and dedication of Queensland's Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the cooperation of the citrus industry and the Emerald community.

The program is a result of outstanding cooperation between the states and territories and was strongly coordinated by the Australian Government.

The enormous effort required to eradicate citrus canker serves as a reminder of the need to remain alert and keep Australia free of exotic pests and diseases.

To report suspect pests and diseases, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline:

1 800 084 881

For further information, visit the Plant Standards web page:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au/psb