
TNLA BULLETIN

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TEXAS NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION • 7730 SOUTH IH-35 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78745 • (512) 280-5182

QUARANTINE ALERT

TDA Establishes Sugarcane rootstock borer quarantine

The Texas Department of Agriculture has adopted on an emergency basis, a quarantine for the sugarcane rootstock borer weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviatus* - effective now.

Quarantined Pest.

The quarantined pest is the sugarcane rootstock borer weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviatus* in any living stage of development.

Quarantined Areas

The quarantined areas are:

- (1) Within Texas: The citrus grove located in Hidalgo County, McAllen, TX, 0.20 miles West of the intersection of Hobbs Drive and North 2nd Street and to include 300 yards in each direction: and
- (2) State of Florida: Counties of Broward, Dade, DeSoto, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Volusia
- (3) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the islands of the West Indies, and any other area where the quarantined pest is detected.

Quarantined Articles

The quarantined articles are:

- (1) the quarantined pest;
- (2) soil, sand, or gravel separately or with other potting media;

- (3) all propagation material to include all plants and plant parts;
- (4) citrus and all plants considered to be a host of the quarantined pest. A list of host plants is available for reference and may be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711; and
- (5) all nursery stock and field grown ornamentals that are potted or balled and burlaped.

Restrictions

- (a) General. Movement of quarantined articles from a quarantined area into or through a non-quarantined area is prohibited, except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.
- (b) Exemptions. The following articles are exempt from the provisions of this subchapter:
 - (1) seed;
 - (2) bare rooted cacti;
 - (3) fruits and vegetables grown aboveground;
 - (4) fleshy roots, corms, tubers, and rhizomes that are free of soil;
 - (5) defoliated bare-rooted nursery stock; and
 - (6) privately-owned indoor decorative houseplants.
- (c) Exceptions.
 - (1) All quarantined articles from outside Texas are admissible into Texas from a quarantined area if accompanied by a phytosanitary certifi-

cate issued by an authorized inspector of the state of origin and have been treated for the quarantined pest as prescribed by the department and is free of the quarantined pest, or has originated in an area free of the quarantined pest.

(2) Quarantined articles from quarantined areas in Texas may be moved to non-quarantined areas under the following provisions:

(A) a signed compliance agreement is in effect with the department requiring treatment of all nursery stock as prescribed by the department and is free of the quarantined pest; or

(B) the quarantined article or articles have been treated prior to shipment as prescribed by the department and are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by an authorized representative of the department; or

(C) the quarantined article or articles are grown within an enclosed structure approved by the department and accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by an authorized representative of the department stating the quarantined article is free of the quarantined pest.

Treatment of Quarantined Areas Within Texas.

- (a) The business manager or property owner will bear all treatment expenses.
- (b) The business manager or property owner shall enter into a compliance agreement with the department to make the required treatments and handle nursery stock and host plants as prescribed by the department.
- (c) In addition to assessment of administrative penalties as provided in the Texas Agriculture Code, a violation of this subchapter may

require destruction of quarantined articles.

- (d) If the producer or handler of quarantined articles required to be treated or destroyed refuses to treat or destroy the articles, the department may treat or destroy the quarantined articles and charge the cost of treatment and/or destruction to the producer or handler, in accordance with the Texas Agricultural Code,
- (e) The quarantined pest shall be considered eradicated when the pest in any development stage is not detected by surveys and trapping during 24 consecutive months.

BACKGROUND: *Diaprepes abbreviatus* is a root weevil native to the Caribbean where at least 19 additional species within the genus are known. In the Caribbean, *D. abbreviatus* is one of the most economically important pests. It was first reported in Florida in 1964 from a nursery near Apopka. It was presumably introduced in an ornamental plant shipment from Puerto Rico. Since 1964, *D. abbreviatus* has spread over a large area of central and southern Florida where it is damaging to citrus, ornamental plants, and some crops. *It is estimated that D. abbreviatus causes about 70 million dollars in damage annually in Florida.*

Host Range

Diaprepes abbreviatus has a wide host range, attacking about 270 different plants including citrus, sugarcane, vegetables, potatoes, woody field-grown ornamentals, sweet potatoes, papaya, guava, mahogany, containerized ornamentals, and non-cultivated wild plants.

For more information contact Ed Gage at TDA, 512/463-7619 or egage@agr.state.tx.us