



TRAVELING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? DON'T PACK HOMEGROWN CITRUS.

Whether you're planning to travel by car or by plane for the holidays this year, agricultural officials are advising Californians to not pack homegrown citrus to avoid spreading a deadly citrus plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB).

A tiny pest that's smaller than a grain of rice, called the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), can carry and spread the deadly plant disease by hitchhiking unsuspectingly on citrus fruit and plant material. Sadly, there is no cure for HLB but by containing the spread of the ACP, California residents can help prevent HLB from spreading further throughout the state.

This Thanksgiving, [AAA](#) reported a 2.3% spike in travel, marking the third-highest forecast since 2000, and a similar travel surge is anticipated for this December. As California residents prepare and pack for their holiday trips, it's important to ensure they're not inadvertently transporting invasive and harmful pests such as the ACP.

To help safeguard California citrus during this holiday season, follow these steps:

Step 1: Don't gift homegrown citrus this holiday.

Although it may seem harmless, gifting homegrown citrus to family, friends or neighbors this holiday season can potentially spread the deadly plant disease to other citrus plants or trees. The tiny pest that can carry HLB commonly attaches itself to the citrus plant's leaves and stems and is difficult to spot due to its small size. To prevent the spread of ACP and HLB to loved one's citrus trees and potentially others, don't gift homegrown citrus this holiday.

Step 2: When it comes to plants and food, do your research on what you can and cannot bring before traveling in California or across state and international borders.

Local quarantines exist throughout Southern California to limit the spread of ACP and HLB, which is why agricultural officials recommend not moving citrus. For more details on what a citrus quarantine means visit californiacitrusthreat.org and CDFA's [website](#) for a map of quarantine boundaries.

For other plants or food you're considering packing, review the guidance outlined on DontPackAPest.com before your trip to understand the associated risks and restrictions in place when moving these products. Doing so will not only prevent negative impacts on our food supply, natural resources, and ecosystems caused by invasive pests and diseases but it will also help to avoid any penalties enforced by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.

Step 3: Staying home for the holidays? Inspect your citrus trees for pests and diseases.

If you're choosing not to travel for the holidays, and you're one of the over 60% of California residents who currently have citrus trees on their property, take time at home to practice good citrus tree maintenance. It's crucial to carefully inspect your trees for signs of the pest and disease, including for symptoms of HLB, such as blotchy, yellowing of leaves; yellow shoots; lopsided, small and rancid-tasting fruit; and premature and excessive fruit drop. Learn more about what to look for on californiacitrusthreat.org. If you suspect your citrus tree has ACP or HLB call CDFA's free pest hotline at 1-800-491-1899 for assistance.

This holiday season, Californians can do their part to protect our state's citrus by taking preventative steps while planning and packing for travel to avoid inadvertently transporting harmful citrus pests and diseases. For more information on ACP and HLB prevention, visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.