



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner  
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800  
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to:  
Division of Plant Industry  
Citrus Health Response Program  
Bureau of Pest Eradication and Control  
3027 Lake Alfred Road, Winter Haven, FL 33881  
Telephone: (863) 298-7777; Fax: (863) 291-5219

May 13, 2010

Dear Citrus Processor:

As a result of our recent finds of citrus black spot in Florida, there is, understandably, a new heightened level of concern and scrutiny on the part of citrus growers, who certainly do not want this new disease in their groves. With this in mind, please be attentive in your efforts to clean all trailers before sending them back to the groves. According to pathologists, this disease is likely here to stay, but its impact and spread can be significantly reduced with diligence. So, it is prudent that we as an industry be prepared to continue to clean the trailers for the foreseeable future.

This letter is being sent to you in an effort to confirm that all citrus trailers and trucks need to be cleaned out thoroughly once they are unloaded at the processing plant. Please note that the language in the FDACS Processor Compliance Agreement dated November 19, 2007 remains in effect, and that sentence 1 of Paragraph 5 of the agreement states:

All citrus fruit hauling equipment (such as trailers and trucks), once unloaded, must be cleaned reasonably free of all fruit, leaves, limbs and debris prior to parking or dropping trailers or other fruit hauling equipment in dispatch areas.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding about how open trailers from non-regulated areas and tarped trailers from regulated citrus black spot (CBS) areas should be handled, please be aware that our FDACS Processor Compliance Agreement states clearly that each trailer, once unloaded must be, "cleaned reasonably free of all fruit, leaves, limbs and debris prior to parking or dropping trailers or other fruit hauling equipment in dispatch areas." The difference is that trailers from CBS regulated areas, in addition to mandatory tarping and other safeguards, must also be decontaminated with peroxyacetic acid, quaternary ammonia or sodium hypochlorite solution per USDA's EAN Stipulations. All leaves and other plant debris cleaned from trailers and other equipment from CBS regulated areas must be treated in accordance with USDA's EAN Stipulations; whereas the leaves and other plant debris from non-regulated areas "must be disposed of in locations that will not pose a risk to commercial citrus groves or nurseries." Please bear in mind that a single leaf infected with citrus black spot disease can forcibly eject up to 50,000 ascospores into the air, which can drift and infect any citrus trees in their paths.



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It is urgent that we act now to invest in the future of Florida citrus by limiting the spread of CBS and other pests through implementing high standards in pest control and phytosanitary measures. Thank you for your continued cooperation in complying with CHRP regulations designed to protect the Florida citrus industry.

Sincerely,

**CHARLES H. BRONSON**  
**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE**



Richard D. Gaskalla  
Division Director

RDG/me



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