CALIFORNIA CITRUS NURSERY BOARD

Progress Report 2008

Project Title: Annual citrus tristeza virus index at the Lindcove Research & Extension Center.

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Objectives:
Provide funds for the leaf collection by LREC staff and the ELISA test by the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency to detect CTV positive trees on the Lindcove Research & Extension Center with tree removal to follow detection.

Progress Report:
During April-June of 2008, all of the citrus trees at Lindcove Research and Extension Center (LREC) were tested for CTV by the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency. The leaves were collected in groups of 3 trees as a combined sample and if the group of 3 trees responded with a positive ELISA reading then the trees were retested individually to determine which of the three were positive. The Citrus Clonal Protection Program tested the foundation block trees with ELISA at UC Riverside. A total of 83 trees were found on to be CTV infected, 8 of which were in the foundation blocks. No budwood was released from the foundation block field trees. The 83 trees were removed.

The Tulare County Pest Control District has voted to provide funding for aphid control in a 1 mile radius around LREC and a subcommittee is developing a CTV-infected tree removal program for the ½ mile radius around LREC. These methods are being undertaken to reduce the incidence of virus in those neighboring orchards which should help ot reduce the rate of infection of trees at LREC. Meanwhile, we need to continue to test trees at LREC for CTV and remove infected trees to protect the integrity of the foundation blocks and research blocks.