



## AERIAL BLIGHT CAUSED BY *PHYTOPHTHORA*

relatively heavy infestations of **false spider mite** (*Brevipalpus* spp) have been identified in some orchards. False spider mites build in the interior tree canopy and often causes spotting 'nail head rust' on the fruit, severely downgrading its marketability. Growers definitely need be alert for this pesky mite which all too often goes undetected until the damage appears on the fruit. Unfortunately, Kelthane MF (dicofol) one of the most effective miticides for false spider mite control has been taken off the market. Growers will need to choose an alternative miticide e.g., Comite EC, Danitol 2.4 EC, or Vendex 50 WP. Envirdor 2 SC which recently received a federal registration for use on citrus has also shown good efficacy against false spider mite.

Aerial blight of citrus is a serious disease with symptoms on the upper leaves and stems. It can result in eventual death of plants in weeks. The incidence of this disease is governed by the temperature, relative78.0611T0.0000TTD(centlyre834u2.58020

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Fig. 1. Asian citrus psyllid nymphs with profuse wax



Fig. 2. Damage of citrus leafminer

In the February 2006 newsletter, we described the survey to be undertaken this year to determine the extent of spread of the Asian citrus psyllid, and if any greening-infected trees were present in either commercial groves or in dooryards.

So far, the psyllid has been found on citrus in 14 counties, including the three commercially important ones of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy). None has been found so far in three other counties. The Table lists the counties outside the LRGV surveyed so far. Of particular importance is the finding of psyllids at one location in Houston, because there are communities in the area with foreign origins who may have introduced citrus illegally from their home countries, perhaps being unaware that this is illegal. Some other locations in Houston visited do not appear to be infested with psyllids, but further surveys will be undertaken. In addition to returning to Houston, there are other areas which will be surveyed again, and counties we have not yet covered, such as those in east Texas, will be visited.

Although no typical greening-like symptoms have been observed at any location, leaves displaying deficiency-like symptoms have been collected from areas visited and sent to the USDA lab in North Carolina which is conducting all the molecu

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