

## Insect vector of citrus Huanglongbing disease (HLB) detected in Villa de Rosario of Argentina

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The National Service of Agri-Food Health and Quality (SENASA) of Argentina has detected insects that are carriers of the Huanglongbing disease (HLB), which is the most severe disease for citrus plants, in two farms in the town of Villa de Rosario, Entre Ríos province. SENASA then has destroyed all the trees in the areas in order to prevent the epidemic.

SENASA detected insect vector of HLB disease in two farms in the town of Villa de Rosario while conducting inspections of the citrus plantations under the National HLB Disease Prevention Program. They said that this is not the first time that they detected these insects in the Entre Ríos province area, including in the urban area of the province. Eventhough they have conducted eradication for many times in this area, which is the principal producer region of citrus of the country, but the disease still persist and found regularly.

Mr Julian Canaglia, SENASA's agricultural engineer, warned that there are vector insects of HLB in all citrus plants. He also asked all related sectors to take preventive measures to prevent the disease from causing damage to the country's citrus planting sector.

HLB disease is a disease that causes bitterness and deformation in fruits by the Candidatus Liberibacter bacteria and is considered the most damaging disease in citrus plants. SENASA recommends conducting inspection of the area of citrus cultivation regularly to prevent the epidemic, not moving the trees or fruits to prevent the spread when the symptoms of such disease are found, and contacting the officers to come to collect the sample immediately.

Official data indicate that in the province of Entre Ríos, there are more than 1,900 citrus producers, with the total of approximately 36,387 hectares of cultivation area which produces nearly 740,000 tons of citrus for commerce annually. The citrus cultivation is the principal economic sector of the Northwest region of the province that creates about 25,000 jobs.

Source: <https://www.noticiasagropecuarias.com/2019/08/01/hlb-afirman-que-el-vector-esta-presente-en-la-region-citricola/>

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

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