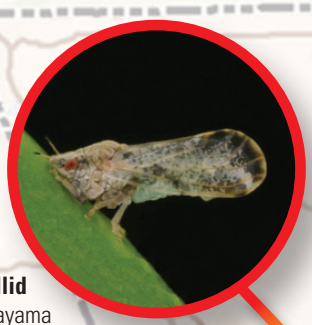
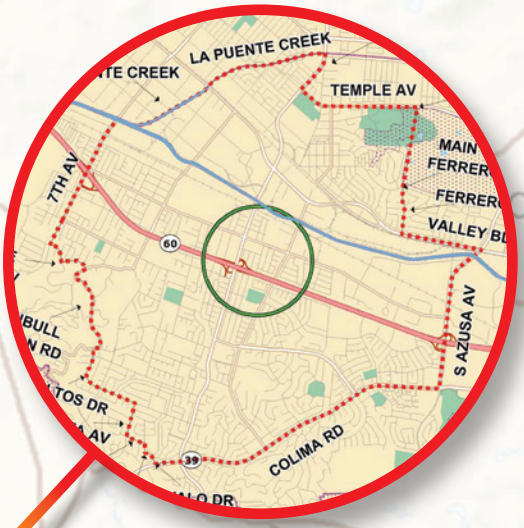
Ventura County 2011 Annual Crop Report

"Connecting the Dots"



Asian Citrus Psyllid
Diaphorina citri Kuwayama
Adult Stage



Quarantine Zone
First known detection in CA of
Huanglongbing (citrus greening)

Signs of Disease
Mottling and chlorosis
of the leaves

Signs of Disease
Misshapen and bitter tasting fruit

HLB Infected Tree
Hacienda Heights, Los Angeles County

Legend

- Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing), CA 3-23-12
- Quarantine for Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing) 3-27-12
- Asian Citrus Psyllid, CA June 16-26, 2012 (141 records)
- Asian Citrus Psyllid, CA 2012 thru 6-26-12 (9,598 records)
- Asian Citrus Psyllid, Mexico 2012 thru 6-1-12 (170 records)

Office of the
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Henry S. Gonzales

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Rudy Martel

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Agricultural Commissioner
Henry S. Gonzales

Chief Deputy
Rudy Martel

July 24, 2012

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Ventura County

John C. Zaragoza, 5th District, Chair
Steve Bennett, 1st District,
Linda Parks, 2nd District,
Kathy Long, 3rd District
Peter C. Foy, 4th District
and
Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food & Agriculture

I am pleased to submit the 2011 Ventura County Crop Report, which is prepared pursuant to Section 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The estimated gross value for Ventura County agriculture for calendar year 2011 is $1,844,260,000. This represents a 1% decrease from 2010.

Strawberries are once more our leading commodity, with a value of $625,509,000. This is an increase of 15% over 2010. The increase is attributed to a healthy increase in value that offset decreases in acreage and per acre production. Raspberries jump from fifth to second place in our top ten, with a value of $185,400,000. More acres planted, and an increase in value, contribute to raspberries' continued ascent, and an 11% increase over 2010. Lemons move up one spot to third, with a value of $174,937,000. This is a slight increase in value for lemons over 2010, and the movement upwards is due more to the drop in nursery stock value, which moved down to fourth place. The 9% drop in nursery stock value from 2010 reflects a decrease in acreage, as well as production of woody ornamentals. The stagnant housing market is attributed with loss of demand for nursery stock. Celery has dropped from second to fifth place, with a value of $154,584,000. This 15% decline in value is due to decreases in acres planted and production per acre from 2010. Tomatoes are now our sixth leading crop, moving up with a value of $99,468,000. This is actually a 17% drop in total value from 2010, but tomatoes move up due to an even bigger drop in total avocado value. Avocados moved down to the seventh spot from sixth, with a value of $91,849,000. Avocado production decreased a whopping 38%, as this alternate bearing tree lost in acreage and production totals, but gained in per ton value. Cut flowers remained in eighth place, even with a 10% increase in total value over 2010. Increased production brought the total value of cut flowers to $52,217,000. Peppers also retained their position at ninth, this time with a value of $41,701,000, an 8% decrease from 2010. Rounding out the top ten, and in the precarious tenth spot, is greens, with a value of $20,717,000. For greens, this represents an increase of 9% in total value over 2010.

This report reflects gross values only and does not represent the net return to farmers, nor the multiplier effect on the surrounding economy. Special thanks go to Kerry Dufrain for compiling the data in this report and to industry members that provided her with their individual information. Special recognition goes to Korinne Bell for the article, *Connecting the Dots*.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Gonzales
Agricultural Commissioner
County of Ventura

Connecting the Dots…

All of us who live in Ventura County are blessed by the vibrant and beautiful agricultural landscape that surrounds our communities, and provides us with abundant, locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and nursery stock which preserves our unique quality of life. What if some simple actions on your part could help to keep this critical industry profitable and vigorous? The citrus industry in Ventura County has been a significant part of farming in this county for over 100 years. The smell of citrus blossoms in the spring and the view of row upon row of citrus trees has been a treasured legacy in our county since residents first brought the golden fruit to our area in the late 1800's. Today, citrus is at risk. A tiny insect, the size of an aphid, has been found in our county, and has the potential to spread with it a deadly and incurable bacterial disease, known as Huanglongbing. This disease is at our back door, having been detected in adjacent Los Angeles County. This disease, if allowed to spread, will not discriminate. Once it reaches our county, it will destroy small backyard citrus plantings, as well as large commercial citrus orchards. Huanglongbing was detected in a residential neighborhood, not on a commercial farm. By connecting the dots, it is evident that every resident of Ventura County has a stake in protecting Ventura County's agriculture.

Huanglongbing (HLB), commonly known as "Citrus Greening," is considered the most devastating citrus disease in the world. HLB is spread by an insect known as *Diaphorina citri Kuwayama*, or Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP). This insect feeds mainly on the new growth of citrus trees and transmits the bacterial disease HLB to the tree, attacking the vascular system of the plant, blocking the flow of nutrients and causing the tree to starve to death. Symptoms of HLB include mottled, yellow shoots and leaves, and discolored, misshapen fruit. The fruit has a very bitter taste and is unfit for human consumption. Unfortunately, by the time symptoms appear, it is too late. There is no cure for this disease, so trees infected will HLB will die within a few years.

HLB originated in Asia and is now present in South and Central America, as well as in Mexico. HLB first appeared in the United States in southern Florida in 2005, and since then has been destroying the citrus industry at an alarming rate of 20% per year. The University of Florida estimates that HLB is responsible for 6,600 lost jobs, a loss of $1.3 billion in revenue to the citrus industry, and the loss of over $3.6 billion in total economic activity. As California is the top citrus producing state in the U.S., with total production valuing at $1.8 billion, the impact this disease will have on our industry and economy will be equally devastating.

The presence of the insect (ACP) was confirmed in several southern counties in California in 2008, and in Ventura in 2010. However, the disease was only recently detected. In March of 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the presence of Huanglongbing (Citrus Greening Disease) on a backyard citrus tree in Hacienda Heights in Los Angeles County. If the disease reaches Ventura County, it will destroy commercial citrus groves, as well as backyard trees, altering the landscape and ending a century legacy of citrus farming in Ventura County within the next five to ten years. However, the disease can only be spread in two ways - by the insect (ACP) and through the movement and propagation of infected plant material.

The lesson learned from our counterparts in Florida is that concerted and swift action is necessary. The Asian Citrus Psyllid Task Force was formed by the USDA, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), County Agricultural Commissioners, the citrus industry, the Farm Advisor, the Farm Bureau, and other related agencies. The task force and other similar groups have focused their efforts on outreach to the public through talks, workshops, flyers, etc. They established a hotline for reporting ACP and HLB. USDA, CDFA, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the citrus industry have worked together, establishing Compliance Agreements with growers and shippers in order to

(continued on inside cover)

AGRICULTURAL CROP REPORT
RECAPITULATION AND INDEX
2010 – 2011

CROP GROUPING	YEAR	$ VALUE[1]
1. FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	2011	$1,124,860,000
Page #4	2010	1,085,677,000
2. VEGETABLE CROPS	2011	490,233,000
Page #5-6	2010	533,473,000
3. NURSERY STOCK[2]	2011	163,793,000
Page #7	2010	180,057,000
4. CUT FLOWERS	2011	52,217,000
Page #8	2010	47,348,000
5. FIELD CROPS	2011	1,684,000
Page #8	2010	2,463,000
6. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY	2011	6,075,000
Page #9	2010	6,161,000
7. APIARY PRODUCTS	2011	2,385,000
Page #9	2010	1,505,000
8. TIMBER	2011	13,000
Page #9	2010	14,000
9. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	2011	3,000,000
Page #10	2010	2,453,000
*GRAND TOTAL	2011	$1,844,260,000
	2010	$1,859,151,000

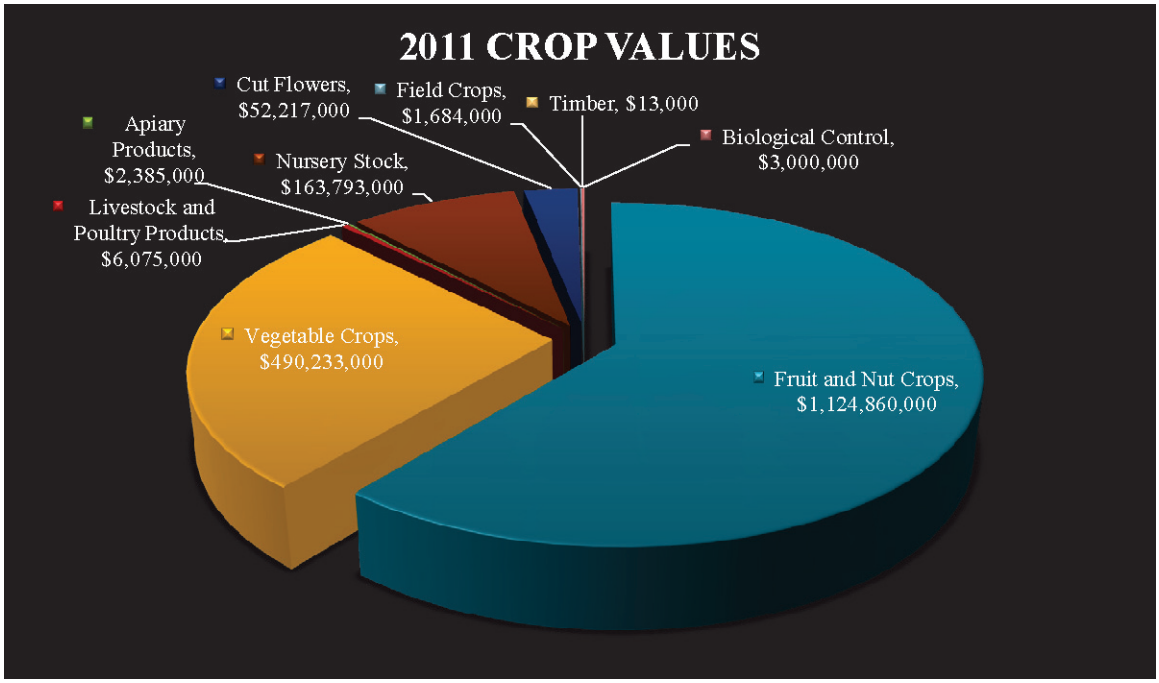
* Ventura County has approximately 96,340 acres of irrigated cropland

[1] Figures are rounded off to nearest $1000
[2] Includes Cut Christmas Trees

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

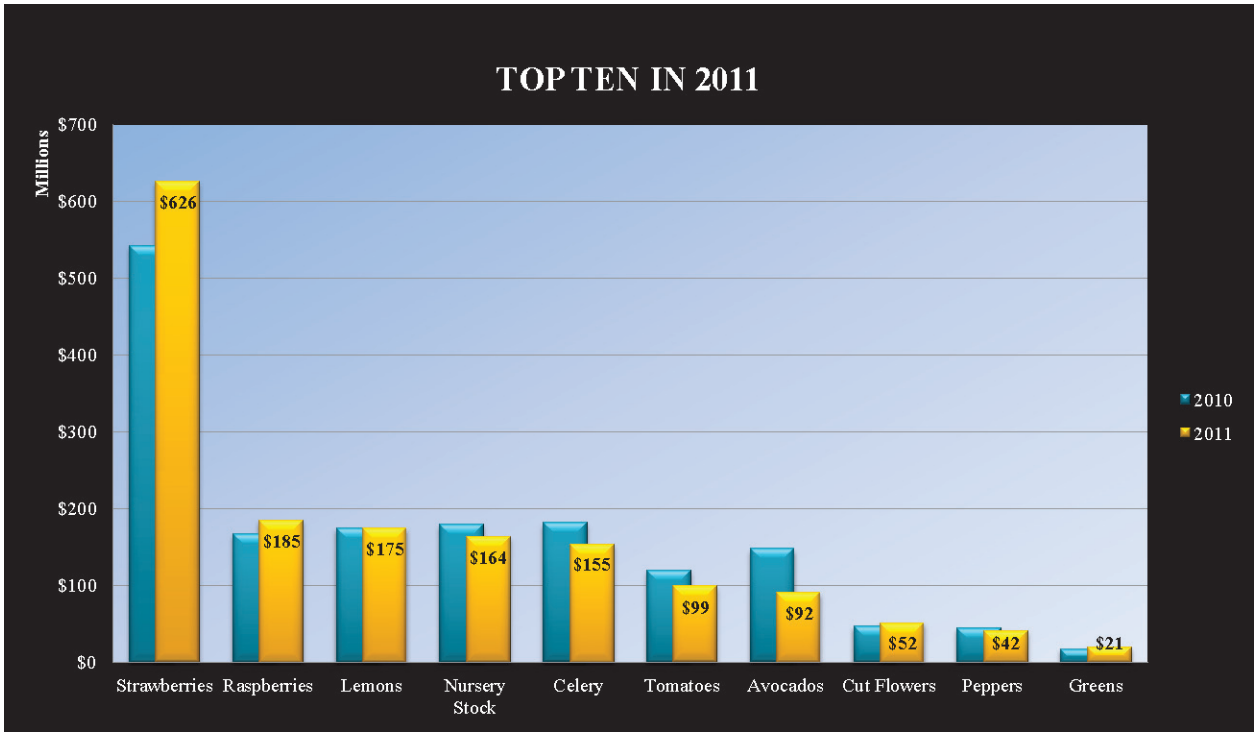
VENTURA COUNTY CROP GROUPING VALUES

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Fruit and Nut Crops	752,138,000	823,464,000	867,759,000	1,085,677,000	$1,124,860,000
Vegetable Crops	442,220,000	427,742,000	509,248,000	533,473,000	490,233,000
Livestock and Poultry Products	9,006,000	6,853,000	7,494,000	6,161,000	6,075,000
Apiary Products	640,000	463,000	698,000	1,505,000	2,385,000
Nursery Stock	292,989,000	298,690,000	191,300,000	180,057,000	163,793,000
Cut Flowers	48,646,000	51,297,000	42,763,000	47,348,000	52,217,000
Field Crops	1,624,000	2,580,000	2,313,000	2,463,000	1,684,000
Timber	17,000	10,000	9,000	14,000	13,000
Biological Control	2,718,000	2,148,000	2,273,000	2,453,000	3,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	$1,549,988,000	$1,613,247,000	$1,623,857,000	$1,859,151,000	$1,844,260,000



TEN LEADING CROPS FOR 2011

RANK	CROP	VALUE
1st	Strawberries	$625,509,000
2nd	Raspberries	185,400,000
3rd	Lemons	174,937,000
4th	Nursery Stock	163,793,000
5th	Celery	154,584,000
6th	Tomatoes	99,468,000
7th	Avocados	91,849,000
8th	Cut Flowers	52,217,000
9th	Peppers	41,701,000
10th	Greens	20,717,000



OTHER MILLION DOLLAR CROPS

Cabbage	19,423,000	Beans (all)	6,546,000
Valencia Oranges	19,198,000	Livestock	6,075,000
Cilantro	17,987,000	Radishes	5,737,000
Lettuce	11,530,000	Mandarins	5,049,000
Kale	11,036,000	Carrots	4,070,000
Spinach	10,410,000	Beets	3,399,000
Cucumber	10,376,000	Orchids*	3,212,000
Parsley	9,368,000	Broccoli	3,183,000
Vegetable Transplants*	9,039,000	Poinsettia*	2,646,000
Oriental Vegetables	6,615,000	Onions (all)	1,313,000

* Included in Nursery Stock total above

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

		PRODUCTION				$ VALUE	
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
AVOCADOS							
	2011	16,777	1.72	28,732	Tons	$3,196.75	$ 91,849,000
	2010	18,916	4.82	91,063	Tons	$1,629.02	148,343,000
GRAPEFRUIT							
	2011	130	11.50	1,495	"	381.28	570,000
	2010	103	11.79	1,214	"	476.12	578,000
LEMONS							
	2011	15,876	19.84	314,863	"	555.60	174,937,000
	2010	16,856	18.14	305,670	"	571.75	174,766,000
ORANGES (Navel)							
	2011	452	16.38	7,403	"	359.86	2,664,000
	2010	449	16.15	7,251	"	493.18	3,576,000
ORANGES (Valencia)							
	2011	3,246	14.85	48,177	"	398.49	19,198,000
	2010	3,262	15.09	49,198	"	572.47	28,164,000
RASPBERRIES							
	2011	2,981	8.95	26,673	"	6,950.85	185,400,000
	2010	2,630	9.44	24,806	"	6,750.23	167,446,000
STRAWBERRIES							
Total	2011	11,230	28.28	317,584	"	1,969.59	625,509,000
	2010	11,875	29.40	349,125	"	1,552.82	542,127,000
Fresh	2011			219,145	"	2,540.89	556,823,000
	2010			261,847	"	1,887.71	494,289,000
Processed	2011			98,439	"	697.76	68,686,000
	2010			87,278	"	548.12	47,838,000
MANDARINS & TANGELOS	2011	1,080	4.89	5,281	"	956.07	5,049,000
	2010	722	6.90	4,978	"	1,166.14	5,805,000
MISC. FRUITS AND NUTS[3]	2011	1,387			"		19,684,000
	2010	1,487			"		14,872,000
TOTAL	2011	53,159					$1,124,860,000
	2010	56,300					$1,085,677,000

[3] MISC. FRUITS AND NUTS include Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Bushberries, Cherimoya, Grapes, Guavas, Kiwi, Limes, Olives, Persimmons, Macadamias, Walnuts; and miscellaneous citrus, deciduous, and subtropical fruit

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

		PRODUCTION				$ VALUE	
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS							
Green and							
Dry Limas,	2011	2,257	2.67	6,022	Tons	$1,087.02	$6,546,000
Green Snap	2010	1,856	3.31	6,131	Tons	797.75	4,891,000
BEETS	2011	513	9.81	5,030	"	675.75	3,399,000
	2010	446	15.44	6,884	"	549.25	3,781,000
BROCCOLI							
Fresh and	2011	890	4.79	4,259	"	747.36	3,183,000
Processed	2010	671	9.57	6,421	"	646.01	4,148,000
CABBAGE	2011	3,225	25.44	82,014	"	236.83	19,423,000
	2010	4,046	26.16	105,816	"	211.99	22,431,000
CARROTS	2011	362	22.07	7,987	"	509.58	4,070,000
	2010	378	20.37	7,697	"	405.10	3,118,000
CELERY	2011	10,581	37.61	397,903	"	388.50	154,584,000
	2010	11,949	39.59	473,054	"	385.31	182,268,000
CILANTRO	2011	4,234	8.13	34,399	"	522.90	17,987,000
	2010	3,309	9.54	31,543	"	502.87	15,862,000
CUCUMBERS[4]	2011	147	61.04	8,972	"	1,156.49	10,376,000
	2010	98	27.25	2,670	"	2,152.06	5,746,000
GREENS[5]	2011	1,237	11.92	14,735	"	1,405.98	20,717,000
	2010	1,556	5.28	8,206	"	2,227.28	18,277,000
KALE	2011	460	15.89	7,308	"	1,510.13	11,036,000
	2010	318	14.89	4,732	"	1,005.29	4,757,000
LETTUCE	2011	1,432	10.14	14,518	"	794.19	11,530,000
Total	2010	2,081	11.51	23,938	"	584.35	13,988,000
Head	2011	116	19.79	2,295	"	373.43	857,000
	2010	131	20.33	2,663	"	398.05	1,060,000
Romaine	2011	358	7.63	2,730	"	670.70	1,831,000
	2010	1,129	12.46	14,067	"	535.23	7,529,000
Leaf	2011	958	9.91	9,493	"	931.43	8,842,000
	2010	821	8.78	7,208	"	749.03	5,399,000

[4] Includes hydroponics
[5] Includes: chard, collard, mustard, turnip and watercress.

VEGETABLE CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

		PRODUCTION				$ VALUE	
CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ONIONS	2011	236	7.37	1,738	Tons	$755.47	$1,313,000
Green & Dry	2010	156	8.77	1,367	Tons	1225.32	$1,675,000
ORIENTAL	2011	926	8.45	7,823	"	845.59	6,615,000
VEGETABLES	2010	448	13.61	6,096	"	670.61	4,088,000
PARSLEY	2011	357	16.21	5,784	"	1,619.65	9,368,000
	2010	760	12.87	9,780	"	744.89	7,285,000
PEPPERS							
Bell and	2011	2,634	26.28	69,203	"	602.59	41,701,000
Chili	2010	2,690	24.40	65,611	"	691.41	45,364,000
PUMPKIN	2011	128	13.24	1,694	"	194.81	330,000
	2010	102	18.11	1,847	"	208.45	385,000
RADISHES	2011	824	13.03	10,733	"	534.52	5,737,000
	2010	1,123	12.21	13,702	"	516.13	7,072,000
SPINACH	2011	1,519	6.21	9,430	"	1,103.93	10,410,000
	2010	1,446	8.95	12,933	"	903.12	11,680,000
SWEET CORN	2011	242	7.84	1,897	"	176.07	334,000
	2010	888	9.38	8,329	"	107.94	899,000
TOMATOES[6]	2011	1,755	51.59	90,540	"	1,098.61	99,468,000
	2010	1,607	63.60	102,192	"	1,175.10	120,085,000
VEGETABLES, MISC.[7] Field, Indoor, and Processed	2011	1,341					52,106,000
	2010	1,718					55,673,000
TOTAL	2011	35,300					$490,233,000
	2010	37,646					533,473,000

[6] Includes hydroponics

[7] Includes: artichokes, arugula, asparagus, baby vegetables, cauliflower, eggplant, endive, garlic, gourds, herbs, kohlrabi, leeks, melons, mushrooms, peas, radicchio, sprouts, squash, tomatillos, and turnips.

NURSERY STOCK
PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION		PRODUCTION AREA Greenhouse Square Feet	Field Acres	Per Unit	TOTAL
NURSERY STOCK							
	2011			6,128,111	2,922		$163,793,000
	2010			7,507,545	3,589		180,057,000
Fruit and Nut	2011	1,018,057	Trees	41,520	121	$16.39	16,681,000
Trees	2010	1,029,606	Trees	61,800	145	$16.11	16,584,000
Potted Plants	2011	2,947,725	Pots	2,882,389	15	3.82	11,245,000
	2010	3,061,113	Pots	3,695,361	23	3.79	11,572,000
Propagative Mat	2011	50,939,254	Cuttings	610,804	4	.15	7,312,000
	2010	51,218,720	Cuttings	614,248	15	.14	7,170,000
Herb. Perennials	2011	2,759,691	Containers	83,526	203	4.25	11,720,000
	2010	4,062,387	Containers	106,356	144	3.16	12,819,000
Woody Orn.*	2011	5,092,880	Tree/Shrubs	711,900	1,455	13.39	68,177,000
	2010	7,046,189	Tree/Shrubs	1,036,620	2,095	12.02	84,670,000
Bed. Plants	2011	21,079,877	Flats	611,720	1,093	1.88	39,619,000
Gr. Cover & Turf	2010	20,439,775	Flats	572,210	1,147	1.77	36,002,000
Veg. Transplants	2011	3,836,037	Flats	1,186,252	31	2.36	9,039,000
	2010	3,685,858	Flats	1,420,950	20	3.05	11,240,000
TOTAL	2011						$163,793,000
	2010						180,057,000

*Includes cut Christmas Trees

CUT FLOWERS
PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

ITEM	YEAR	ACRES	PRODUCTION	UNIT	TOTAL $ VALUE
FLOWER BLOOMS &	2011	25	15,025,251	Blooms	$4,443,000
STEMS	2010	50	14,259,967	Blooms	4,297,000
CUT GREENS & DRIED	2011	106	1,376,025	Bunches	1,963,000
FLOWERS	2010	75	818,617	Bunches	1,002,000
FLOWER BUNCHES	2011	717	15,254,590	Bunches	45,811,000
Total	2010	738	14,585,340	Bunches	42,049,000
Statice, Lace, Aster	2011	73	1,253,381	"	3,497,000
And Gypsophila	2010	75	1,578,357	"	3,728,000
Chrysanthemums and	2011	78	3,469,654	"	4,894,000
Sunflowers	2010	66	3,081,059	"	4,609,000
Lilies & Irises	2011	94	4,290,745	"	19,723,000
	2010	89	3,999,591	"	19,417,000
Lisianthus	2011	37	556,965	"	2,162,000
	2010	23	568,109	"	1,929,000
Delphinium, Larkspur,	2011	296	3,786,821	"	9,721,000
Stock & Snapdragons	2010	357	4,032,241	"	8,415,000
Miscellaneous	2011	139	1,897,024	"	5,814,000
	2010	128	1,625,983	"	3,951,000
TOTAL	2011	848			$52,217,000
	2010	863			$47,348,000

FIELD CROPS
ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND VALUE 2010-2011

CROP	YEAR	HARVESTED ACREAGE	TOTAL $ VALUE
ALFALFA AND PASTURE	2011	93,113	$1,071,000
Irrigated and Non-Irrigated	2010	91,509	1,105,000
GRAIN[8], HAY,	2011	759	613,000
& VEGETABLE SEED	2010	968	1,358,000
TOTAL	2011		$1,684,000
	2010		2,463,000

[8] Includes green barley

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY
PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

ITEM	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	$ VALUE PER UNIT	$ VALUE TOTAL
LIVESTOCK					
Cattle, Hogs	2011	16,474	cwt.	S115.34	$1,900,000
Sheep	2010	16,074	cwt.	S115.35	$1,854,000
POULTRY					
Chickens and	2011				4,087,000
Eggs	2010				4,261,000
OTHER LIVESTOCK	2011				88,000
Alpaca and Squab	2010				46,000
TOTAL	2011				$6,075,000
	2010				6,161,000

APIARY PRODUCTS
PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION	UNIT	$ VALUE PER UNIT	$ VALUE TOTAL
HONEY	2011	518,887	lbs	$1.49	$774,000
	2010	562,589	lbs	1.57	880,000
BEESWAX	2011	17,115	“	3.56	61,000
AND POLLEN	2010	15,000	“	3.40	51,000
POLLINATION USE	2011				1,550,000
	2010				574,000
TOTAL	2011				$2,385,000
	2010				1,505,000

* Beeswax only

TIMBER
PRODUCTION AND VALUES 2010-2011

CROP	YEAR	$VALUE
TIMBER	2011	$13,000
	2010	14,000

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ITEM	PEST	AGENT	SCOPE OF PROGRAM
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL			
Commercial Insectaries	Red and black scale, Mealybug, snails, various aphids, mites and flies	Aphytus melinus, Cryptolemus, Decollate snails, various predators, parasitic wasps and nematodes	Estimate 762,409,000 beneficials, released on 250 ranches. Valued at $3,000,000
COLONIZATION OF BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS	-	-	-
PEST ERADICATION	Dalmation Toadflax	Mechanical/ Digging	1 Site
	Scotch Thistle	Mechanical/ Digging	1 Site
	Spotted Knapweed	Mechanical/ Digging	1 Site
	Euphorbia terracina	Mechanical/Digging	1 Site
PEST EXCLUSION			
		Incoming Shipments	
	Various	Postal/UPS/Fed Express (Parcels)	5,521
		Truck/Air Freight	339
	Gypsy Moth	Household Goods (Inspections)	20
		Total	5,880
	Various	Swap Meets/Ethnic Markets/Mobile Venders	26

ORGANIC FARMING	YEAR	ACRES	CROPS
NUMBER OF REGISTERED GROWERS			
90	2011		
79	2010		
	2011	2,524	VEGETABLES AND HERBS
	2010	1,905	
	2011	3,214	FRUITS AND NUTS
	2010	3,265	
	2011	2	FIELD CROPS
	2010	1	
	2011	11	FLOWERS/ NURSERY STOCK
	2010	15	
Total Acreage	2011	5,751	
	2010	5,186	

continue trade in a protected environment. These Compliance Agreements are regulated by a cooperative effort between the USDA and CDFA known as the ACP Project.

In southern California counties, the overwhelming majority of ACP finds have been in residential settings. **In Ventura County, there have been 7 confirmed, single specimen ACP finds - 3 in residential neighborhoods and 4 in commercial citrus groves.** Citrus growers in Ventura County have been diligently monitoring their orchards for ACP and HLB and have been ready to act if and when an ACP or infestation (multiple life-stages) is found. Government agencies have responded by ramping up their detection efforts through systematic trapping procedures, emergency response protocols, and establishing quarantine boundaries. CDFA, USDA, and state experts in entomology and plant pathology developed an emergency program specific to HLB, known as the HLB Task Force. The program includes recommended treatments to control all life-stages of the insect, removal of infected trees within a certain radius of a detection site, and increased trapping and monitoring.

The agricultural industry has responded by complying with requirements set forth in the Compliance Agreements for growing and shipping produce and nursery stock. By distributing educational materials and working with the media in outreach campaigns to educate the general public about ACP and the disease that it spreads, government agencies and the agricultural industry have all made great contributions.

Now it is the public's turn to connect the dots and do their part to control or slow the spread of this deadly disease. Hacienda Heights is not located in or near commercial farming; it is a residential neighborhood in central Los Angeles County located approximately 56 miles from the Ventura County line. This is not just an agricultural problem. The greatest potential for spreading the disease comes from actions by residents not involved in farming. In Ventura County, where every resident is near or adjacent to commercial agriculture, or enjoys their own backyard citrus trees, the responsibility for control of this pest is shared by all. Look for the insect, report suspicious insects to the CDFA Pest Hotline (800-491-1899), or contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's office. Buy your trees or propagation materials from local nurseries, avoid buying citrus trees at swap meets and other outlets where you cannot confirm where the plants were grown, check for tags or documentation that the citrus trees you buy come from a reputable source or a clean nursery, and never bring in citrus from areas outside the county.

Together we can slow or halt the spread of ACP and HLB, while industry experts search for a treatment or cure for the disease. Help us keep the citrus industry alive in Ventura County for your children and grandchildren. For more information, please see our website or contact our office at (805) 477-1620.

HLB Infected Tree, Hacienda Heights, CA