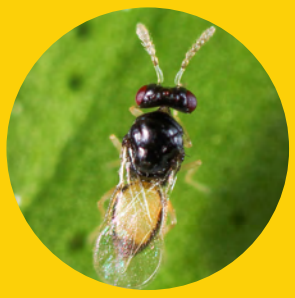
CALIFORNIA CITRUS IS AT CRITICAL RISK

A fatal citrus plant disease called Huanglongbing (HLB) is threatening commercial and backyard citrus trees throughout California. The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) is a pest that can transmit the incurable citrus plant disease as it feeds on the leaves of citrus trees.



A tiny beneficial wasp called *Tamarixia radiata*, is being used to reduce populations of Asian citrus psyllid in urban areas of California. *Tamarixia radiata* is an environmentally friendly and economical way of targeting ACP.

Tamarixia radiata in a vial → *Tamarixia radiata* released → Parasitized ACP nymph

This natural predator lays their eggs in ACP nymphs. When the *Tamarixia* hatch, they eat their way out of the Asian citrus psyllid, causing the pest to die. Studies found that *Tamarixia* parasitizes an average of 20 percent of ACP nymphs in urban areas of California.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The goal of the biological control program across California is to reduce densities of ACP, so there are fewer psyllids that may be able to find and spread HLB.

While effective at reducing ACP populations, the *Tamarixia* biological control will not stop HLB on its own. There are many other activities in place — like quarantines, treatment and tree removal — that also help prevent the spread of the disease. Additional support from the community and routine backyard citrus tree care are critical in helping California citrus thrive.

Learn more at CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.

Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program