

## Citrus Greening and Orange Jasmine

In March of 2007 a notice was issued to all Florida Nurseryman that the Division of Plant Industry will move forward to place Orange Jasmine and Lakeview Jasmine (*Murraya Paniculata*) on the list of plants that serve as a host for citrus greening. According to a release by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, this may be the most serious plant disease in the world. It is caused by a bacterium yet unnamed and is spread by insects called citrus psyllid. There are African, Asian and Brazilian strains of the disease.

There is no known cure for citrus greening. The infected trees must be cut down. Among the options to stop citrus greening is the use of pesticides in commercial groves.

The name "greening" was chosen since the disease causes trees to produce predominately green, worthless fruit which fails to ripen as well as inducing a bitter-salty flavor when processed. Unlike citrus canker, citrus greening kills the trees.

The result of adding Orange Jasmine to the host list will require that all of these plants must be grown in a screen house structure designed to exclude the Asian citrus psyllid.

This action is taken to limit the spread of the disease

which has been found, although very isolated, in the United States.

The Division of Plant Industry will allow growers and distributors of Orange Jasmine, until December 31, 2007, to liquidate any current inventories. After that time, the production in unapproved structures will be prohibited.



Due to the possibility of spreading the disease we will no longer stock Orange and Lakeview Jasmine at A.W. Kelley's Gardens, Inc. Hopefully this situation will be resolved in the future and this popular, blooming shrub will not have restrictions.

By Aaron W.

For more information use this link – [www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/2005/09022005\\_2.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/2005/09022005_2.html)