

Protocol for Removing Areas from the Citrus Black Spot (CBS) Quarantine

The following criteria must be met and verified by an Inspector for any section within the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) to be removed from quarantine under this protocol:

1. The section must be located entirely outside (i.e., must not be intersected by) a one-mile radius of any other CBS-positive trees; and
2. The entire section must have at least three consecutive years of CBS-negative survey results since the tree(s) removal; and
3. For groves in which a CBS-positive tree is detected:
 - a. The CBS-positive tree and the following trees must be removed (see Appendix):
 - i. Within the same row as the CBS-positive tree: any trees planted within the distance of the two most adjacent planting locations¹ from both sides of the CBS-positive tree; and
 - ii. Within the two most adjacent rows on each side of the CBS-positive tree: any trees planted within the distance of the three most adjacent planting locations to the CBS-positive tree; and
 - b. Tree debris (e.g., leaves, twigs, branches, fruit, etc.) within the area where the trees are removed must be removed at the time of tree removal as described in section 3 above; and
 - c. All equipment leaving the CBS-positive grove or area must be free from leaves and other tree debris before leaving the CBS-positive area; and
 - d. The grower/owner must provide documentation, which must be verified by an inspector, stating that activities a, b, and c above have been carried out; or
 - e. In the absence of documentation retained for a CBS-positive tree that triggered the quarantine prior to publication of Federal Order DA-2024-30 [August 15, 2024], the grower/owner may provide a signed affidavit stating that the described activities were carried out.
4. Any compliance agreements signed after publication of DA-2024-30 [August 15, 2024], will include a stipulation that records are maintained for the above activities.

¹ The location where a tree would normally be planted according to the grove design.

Definitions:

Compliance agreement: A written agreement between APHIS or a State and a person engaged in growing, processing, handling, or moving regulated or associated articles, wherein the person agrees to comply with stipulations set forth in the agreement. The compliance agreement may be cancelled orally or in writing by an inspector if the inspector finds that the person who entered into the compliance agreement has failed to comply with all the requirements of the agreement.

Inspector: Any employee of APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or any employee of a State, a County, or any other person specifically authorized by the APHIS Administrator to perform the specified duties.

Public Land Survey System (PLSS): The surveying method developed and used in the United States to plot, or divide, real property for sale and settling that divides land in the United States into townships, ranges, and sections.

Section: An approximately one-square-mile block of land as defined under the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Appendix. Citrus Black Spot Tree Removal Graphic

This graphic provides examples of how to meet the tree removal criteria for a grove to be removed from a quarantine area. These criteria are established in DA-2024-30.

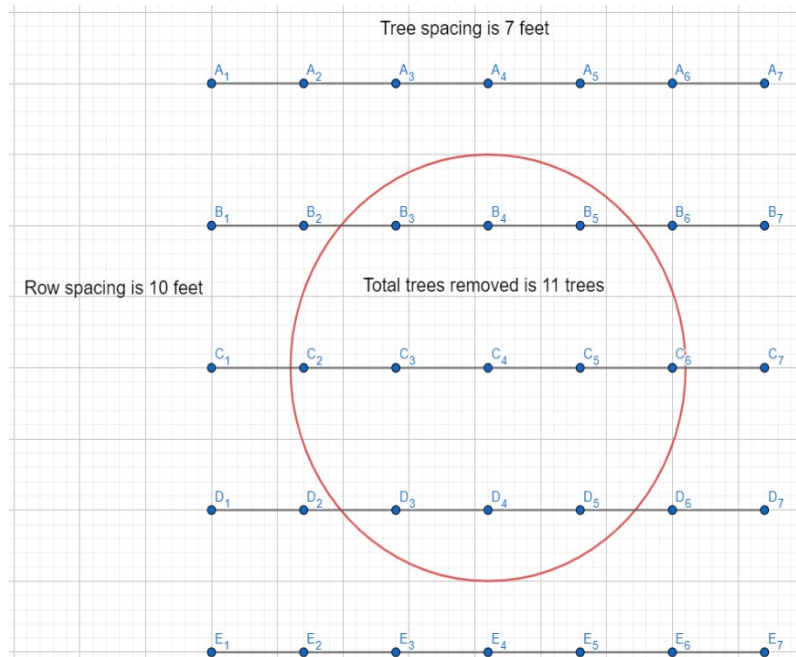


Figure 1: Typical spacing with 7-foot tree spacing and 10-foot row spacing. Remove positive tree (C₄) and the adjacent trees (B₃; B₄; B₅; C₂; C₃; C₅; C₆; D₃; D₄; D₅).

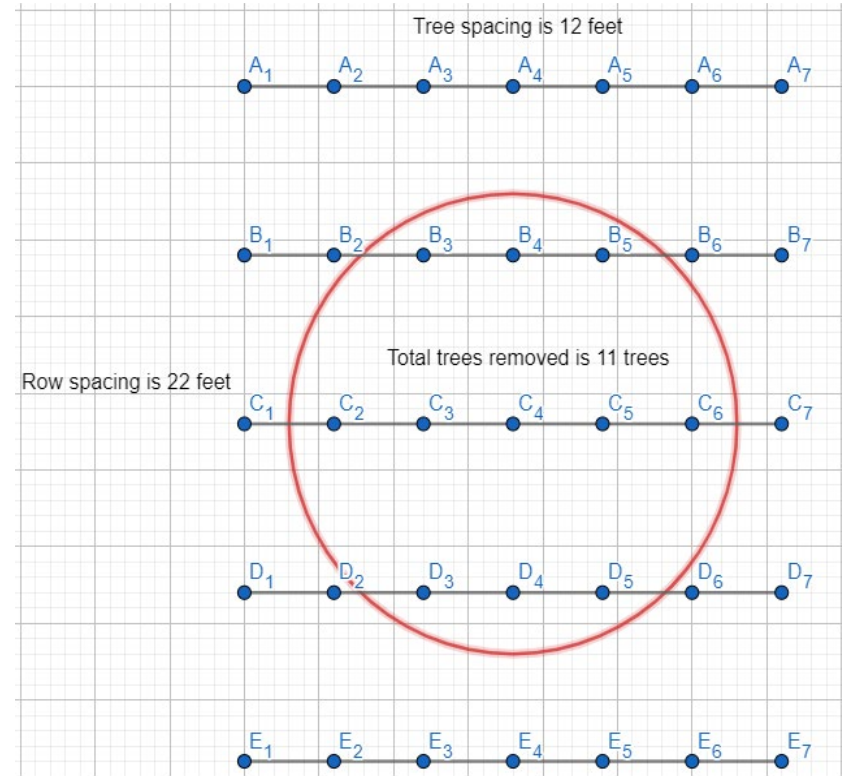


Figure 2: Typical spacing with 12-foot tree spacing and 22-foot row spacing. Remove positive tree (C₄) and the adjacent trees (B₃; B₄; B₅; C₂; C₃; C₅; C₆; D₃; D₄; D₅).