

# **IS AREA-WIDE PEST MANAGEMENT USEFUL? THE CASE OF CITRUS GREENING**

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## **Abstract**

Huanglongbing (HLB) currently poses a severe threat to citrus production worldwide. No cure is yet available for growers to deal with the disease. While working on developing short- and long-term treatments, scientists recommend controlling the vector of the disease. In this regard, area-wide pest management has been proposed as a superior alternative to individual pest management. We analyze a unique dataset of farm-level yields in Florida that allowed us to test such hypothesis, and quantify the differential economic benefit in two areas with different implicit level of participation. Our findings provide evidence on the efficiency of well-performing areas to deal with HLB. In addition, we present survey data that provide insights about producers' preferences and opinions regarding area-wide pest management. Despite the relatively high benefit we found well-performing areas can provide, the strategic uncertainty involved in relying on neighbors seems to impose too high of a cost for most growers, who end up not coordinating sprays.

**Keywords:** Area-wide pest management, citrus greening, common property, externalities, pest management

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