UF IFAS Extension Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening) Leaf and Fruit Symptom Identification

Jamie D. Burrow and Megan M. Dewdney

HLB FACTS

- · Official name is Huanglongbing (HLB); commonly known as citrus greening
- Bacterial disease
- Leaf and fruit symptoms are the outer expression of vascular damage inside the plant
- Spreads via insect vector or grafting
- All citrus varieties are susceptible

COMMON LEAF SYMPTOMS

- Blotchy mottle pattern (no symmetry across the midvein) will be on upper and lower sides of the leaf
- Vein corking
- Yellow veins (other citrus diseases and tree damage also produce yellow veins)
- · Symptoms can vary in intensity (see next side)

COMMON FRUIT SYMPTOMS

- **EXTERNAL**: lopsided, small or reduced fruit size, misshapen, color inversion (fruit colors opposite of healthy fruit; infected fruit begins to color from stem downward); whereas, healthy fruit begins to color from bottom of fruit and upward
- INTERNAL: aborted seeds (seeds not fully developed), curved central core, prominent yellow stain beneath the calyx button (stem)

ALL OF THE SYMPTOMS OF HLB DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO DIAGNOSE AN INFECTED TREE.



Blotchy mottle



Blotchy mottle



Blotchy mottle and yellow veins



Blotchy mottle



Blotchy mottle



Vein corking



Lopsided fruit (left side is larger than right), aborted seeds



Lopsided fruit (right side is larger than left), aborted seeds, and yellow staining beneath calyx button



Lopsided fruit



Color inversion

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- 2. Jamie D. Burrow, Extension program manager; and Megan M. Dewdney, associate professor, Plant Pathology Department; UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL 33850.

