

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

April 2022



www.termiteterry.com

(949) 631-7348

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Florida's Orange Production Takes A Huge Hit!

Florida's production of oranges in 2022 will be at their lowest levels since World War II.

In October of 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast that Florida citrus growers would produce 11% less oranges this season. That forecast has now been downgraded to a 16% reduction in harvested oranges. This is the second year in a row that they have reported significant drops in production. 95% of Florida oranges are used to produce about half of the orange juice that Americans drink. About half of our orange juice is now being imported from Brazil and Mexico.

Florida's citrus growers are having to deal with a persistent disease that is infecting their citrus trees. This disease is "citrus greening" and it is caused by a tiny insect, called the Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*).

The disease arrived in Miami in 2005. Over the next 15 years, it rendered oranges from infected groves inedible, and has resulted in a 55% decline in production.

Citrus greening can kill a tree in as little as five years, and there is no known cure. All varieties of citrus are susceptible to this disease. The only way to protect our citrus trees is to prevent the spread of this pathogen, and by destroying any that are infected.

What's happening in California?

California grows 80% of America's fresh citrus. We have about 267,000 acres of Golden State oranges, lemons,

grapefruits and mandarins that are at stake. This is why citrus greening is a major concern for all of us.

The Asian citrus psyllid is widely distributed throughout Southern California. It is also becoming more widespread in the Central Valley, and further north. The first tree with citrus greening was found at a home garden in Los Angeles County, in March of 2012. A few years later, it was found at residences in Orange County. In 2017, the disease began to spread rapidly in these areas. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) had to remove and destroy the trees that were found to be infected.

Background

The Asian citrus psyllid and the citrus greening disease originated in eastern Asia or the Indian subcontinent. It then spread to other parts of the world where citrus is grown.

The Asian psyllids were first sighted in the United States in 1998. They were found on backyard plantings of orange jessamine, in Palm Beach County, Florida. The disease spread rapidly over a three-year period, throughout Florida.

The first infected tree found in California is believed to have been the result of illegal grafting of an infected bud (taking plant tissue from one tree and inserting it into another to form a new branch). That tree was destroyed to
(turn the page)

125 Years Ago . . .

On April 19, 1897, the first Boston marathon was held. It is the world's oldest marathon, and the inaugural event was won by John J. McDermott of New York.

Remembering A Great Radio And TV Host

"If you want to stay young-looking, pick your parents very carefully."

Dick Clark, died April 18, 2012

Rave Reviews!

"We have recently completed tenting/fumigating our home with Termite Terry. They also performed an extensive restoration project replacing or repairing most of our termite-laden fascia, rafter tails, trim and casing.

We had put off the needed fumigation for too long and the termite damage had become severe. The required wood repair was daunting and it was difficult to find someone with the expertise to undertake a quality residential restoration of this scope. After the first day of work, it became obvious that Termite Terry was the right choice for the job. Each damaged board was dissected out and replaced with negligible involvement of the adjoining stucco, roofing, or brittle cementous (Hardie Board) shiplap siding. All new wood was primed and seams were caulked to prevent future re-infestation. All butt joints were precise, tight and expertly cut.

To say that we were pleased by the quality of work and attention to detail would be an understatement. We look forward to recommending Termite Terry to any of our friends who may need their professional services in the future."

Dr. Ron Housepian
Costa Mesa

"Thank you, Termite Terry Pest Control, for your services and for the gift card. Contact them for your termite and pest control needs at (949) 631-7348, and tell them that I sent you."

Shane Holt
Lakewood

"Love Termite Terry! Great longtime local company. We use them all the time on our properties."

Pam White Galletti
White Sail Realty

help stop the spread of the disease.

Since that time, other infected trees have been found in southern California residential areas. This may have been caused by people illegally importing diseased trees, illegal grafting of infected budwood, or the natural spread of the bacterium by the psyllid.



****Asian Citrus Psyllid Specimen**

Adult Asian citrus psyllids are small brownish winged insects. About the size of an aphid, they are 1/6 to 1/8 inch long. They have a pointed front end, red eyes, and short antennae. The wings are mottled brown around the outer edge except where a clear stripe breaks up the pattern at the back.

Emergency Citrus Disease Research & Extension Program

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is supporting scientists at UC Riverside, the University of Florida, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

UC Riverside received an emergency grant of \$1.5 million. Their focus will be on a search for plants that have a natural tolerance of citrus greening.

"If you find a disease affecting your crops, a good first step is to look for plants that are able to grow and produce despite infection," said UCR geneticist Danelle Seymore. "Then you can start to identify the genetic basis of the disease tolerance and make sure the next generation of plants includes these genes."

Seymore and UCR plant pathologist, Philippe Rolshausen, will start by examining a set of 350 citrus hybrids developed and grown by project collaborators in Florida. All of the trees in this set are already infected with citrus greening disease, yet they live longer, are healthier, and yield more fruit than their infected relatives.

Let's all hope their research will lead to a successful solution.

How you can protect your citrus trees

The Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program recommends these tips to protect citrus trees:

- Inspect your trees for the Asian citrus psyllid and citrus greening monthly, and whenever watering, spraying, pruning or tending trees. If the disease is spotted, call the CDFCA hotline at (800) 491-1899 immediately.
- Do not move citrus plants, leaves, or foliage into or out of the quarantine area or across state or international borders. Keep it local!
- As part of tree care, visit your local nursery or garden center to get advice on products that can help protect citrus trees from the Asian citrus psyllid.
- Recommendations on managing the Asian citrus psyllid can be found by visiting the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources website.
- Buy citrus trees from licensed, local nurseries and only use registered budwood.
- Cooperate with agricultural officials placing insect traps, inspecting trees and treating for the pest.
- Be sure to dry out citrus clippings or double bag them before disposing the plant material.
- If you no longer wish to care for your citrus tree, consider removing it so it does not become a host to the pest or disease.



Termite Terry Sponsors The West Coast Rodent Academy

The West Coast Rodent Academy is a three-day training event that was held at the University of California's South Coast Research & Extension Center in Irvine. Termite Terry was proud to be a sponsor of the event.

The event was limited to only 45 technicians, who came from states as far away as Alaska.

Dr. Niamh Quinn, the University of California Extension Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor, was a featured speaker. She shared with us her knowledge of various rodent species that we need to deal with, and the results of her research studies. While she has a wealth of knowledge on the subject, it was most striking when she said, "Unfortunately, we know more about polar bears than we do about rodents". There is so much more to learn, and we all should look forward to what she will accomplish with her research.

Timmy Madere, an Urban Rodentologist from the city of New Orleans, was another of the featured speakers. He has spent his life doing research work, and his primary focus is on commensal rodents and urban rodent control. He is a hands-on type of guy, and he had numerous stories and examples of how he has solved tough rodent problems in real-world conditions.

We also had speakers from the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District, Los Angeles County Ag Commissioners Office, as well as representatives from the manufacturers of rodent control products.

Numerous samples of various rodent species were on display for

attendees to examine up close. They also had hands-on classes for inspections, rodent exclusions, trapping, and rodent baiting.

Termite Terry said, "It was great to be a part of this event. I'm confident that everyone, including those of us with decades of experience, learned a lot of new information that we can all use to improve our results in the field."

President's Economic Stimulus

The price of crude oil is at record levels and the cost of filling up your gas tank keeps going up. Termite Terry "feels your pain" and wants to help by giving you a FREE tank of gas.

Here are just a few more of your fellow citizens who have benefited from President Termite Terry's Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Jason Shelton of Rancho Santa Margarita referred us to Spencer Sylvester of Aliso Viejo.
- Diana Lethin of Huntington Beach recommended us to Dave Moeller of Huntington Beach.
- Liz Hirst of Irvine referred us to Fiora Parker of Fountain Valley.
- David Hansen of Fountain Valley referred us to Desi Rorick of Huntington Beach.

The President's plan is easy and with your help, we can **double the number of people who get FREE GAS each month**. All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs, or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we'll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!

National Grilled Cheese Month!

April is National Grilled Cheese month. Let's take a look at some fun facts about one of our favorite treats:

- The Ancient Romans were the first to make a cooked bread and cheese type sandwich.
- In the 1920s, the grilled cheese became a household staple. That is when sliced bread became widely available in the U.S.
- U.S. Navy cookbooks describe Navy cooks broiling cheese on a slice of bread during WWII.
- If you went to a restaurant between 1920 and 1970, they were called a "Cheese Dream".
- The grilled cheese did not actually start off as a sandwich. It was just a slice of bread with cheese on top. The 1960s was when it became popular to add a top slice of bread.
- In 2006, a world record was set when Joey Chestnut ate 47 grilled cheese sandwiches in 10 minutes.
- One sandwich has about 300 calories. Of course, you can always switch to low-fat or non-fat cheese if you're watching your weight.
- Bacon and ham are the most popular add-ons for grilled cheese.
- Starting in 1993, the annual Grilled Cheese Invitational was held in Los Angeles, California. Unfortunately, the event was canceled after 2014.
- According to a survey by Kraft Foods, 9% of respondents say they eat grilled cheese once a week. 24% say they eat them a few times a month, and 14% say they eat them a few times per month.
- A woman had a 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich that she said bore the image of the Virgin Mary on it. She posted it on eBay and an online casino confirmed that it placed the winning bid of \$28,000! They said they were willing to pay "as much as it took" to get it. I like grilled cheese, but don't think I'd spend quite that much for one. ☺

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**“You’re Going To Love Living In A Pest Free Home.
I Guarantee It.”**

Rodent Problem Forces Closure Of Over 400 Stores!

A retail chain was forced to close over 400 stores after more 1,000 rodents were found at one of its distribution facilities.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a 22-page inspection report of the facility. During their inspection, they found live rodents, dead rodents in various forms of decay, rodent feces, dead birds, and bird droppings.

The infestation of rodents was so severe that the building had to be fumigated. More than 1,100 dead rodents were found after the fumigation had been completed.

Officials from the FDA said, “Additionally, a review of the company’s internal records also indicated the collection of more than 2,300 rodents between March 29th and September 17th, 2021, demonstrating a history of infestation.”

The store chain has issued a voluntary recall of food, cosmetics, medical products, pet food, and other products that were sold at their retail outlets. The FDA is urging caution around any items purchased since January 1, 2021, at the chain’s stores located in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, or Tennessee.

The retail store chain said in a statement that the product recall and store closures have resulted in a cost of \$34 million. They are also facing several proposed class-action lawsuits over the infestation and recalls.

Ladies and gentlemen, rodent infestations can be dangerous to human health. Hantavirus, leptospirosis, rat-bite fever, salmonellosis, and the plague, are just some of the diseases they can spread. If you have a home or business that has a rodent infestation, you need to deal with the problem aggressively and solve it. After all, one can easily think of “34 million reasons” of why this company should have solved their rodent problem, before it got out of control.



“Termite” Terry Singleton