

**Tree Assistance Program (TAP) for Florida Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing (HLB))**  
*Frequently Asked Questions*

**1. Do I have to suffer citrus tree mortality in order to be eligible for TAP?**

Yes, Florida citrus producers must sustain a tree mortality loss in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality. Citrus trees that are either biologically dead or that no longer are viable commercially may be considered to have met mortality. Determining tree mortality loss for disease differs from determining mortality due to weather related events because the time period between disease infection and symptom appearance can be from 1 month to several years. Therefore, the 15 percent mortality threshold and normal mortality calculation shall be cumulative based on the loss and time period.

**2. When must my tree losses have occurred?**

Losses must have occurred on or after October 1, 2011.

**3. When does the enrollment period for TAP start and end?**

For Florida citrus tree losses that occurred on or after October 1, 2011, through the end of the 2014 calendar year, an application for payment and supporting documentation must be provided to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) by *the later* of January 31, 2015, or 90 calendar days after the disease event or date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

For losses that occurred on or after January 1, 2015, an application for payment and supporting documentation must be provided within 90 calendar days of each disaster event or date when the loss is apparent to the producer.

However, as stated above, tree losses due to disease, such as citrus greening, differs from determining mortality due to weather related events because the time period between infection and symptom appearance can be from 1 month to several years. Therefore the 15 percent mortality calculation shall be cumulative based on the loss period. Citrus growers who are suffering cumulative loss due to citrus greening should contact their local county FSA office to annually report the number of trees lost due to citrus greening, even if they may not file for assistance until a subsequent year.

**4. Where do I apply for TAP?**

Florida citrus growers must apply for TAP in the FSA administrative county office that maintains the producer's farm records for the agricultural operation. New producers or producers who have not previously worked with FSA are encouraged to contact their FSA county office for details on registering their agricultural operation. To find your FSA office, click <http://fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateOffices?area=stoffice&subject=landing&topic=landing>.

**5. What documentation do I need to provide FSA when I file my TAP application?**

Florida citrus growers who experience tree losses are encouraged to collect records documenting these losses in preparation for enrollment in TAP. This documentation includes a TAP application (form CCC-899); a written estimate of the number of trees, bushes, or vines affected; an acreage report for the farming operation; a conservation compliance certification (form AD-1026); a farm operating plan; and sufficient evidence of the loss to allow the FSA county committee to calculate whether an eligible loss occurred; and any other requested documentation. (The duties of an FSA county committee include reviewing and approving applications for FSA programs in their respective counties).

Consult your local FSA office for more information on the necessary forms and applications. Producers are encouraged to contact their FSA county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment and to bring necessary documentation.

**6. Do I have to have a Florida Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement in place to be eligible for TAP?**

While best management practices should be followed in an effort to control citrus greening, TAP does not require a grower to specifically have a Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement in place to be eligible. Any citrus producer that can document they are following the best management practices for citrus greening may be considered eligible.

**7. My neighbor has abandoned their grove due to citrus greening. Will their orchard be eligible for TAP?**

No. Orchardists, citrus or nursery tree growers who have abandoned their groves are not eligible for TAP because the orchard or grove is not used for commercial purposes for the production of an annual crop.

**8. Do I have to replant the same type of the lost trees, bushes, or vines?**

No. The new types planted may differ from those originally planted if the new types have the same general end use, as determined and approved by the FSA county committee. Also, the site preparation costs for the new location must not exceed the cost to re-establish the original stand in the original location.

**9. Is there a time limit for completing the approved practices?**

Yes, all approved practices must be completed by the citrus grower within 12 months of the approval of the TAP application by the FSA county committee.

**10. I have replanted my lost trees due to citrus greening, and my resets are now affected. Can I apply for TAP assistance on my reset trees?**

Once an infected tree is replaced, its replacement tree, or any subsequent replacement tree, shall not be eligible for TAP due to citrus greening for at least a six year period. Resets may be eligible for assistance if loss was due to other natural disaster events, however.

**11. What are the approved practices on trees affected with citrus greening eligible for TAP assistance?**

For lost trees affected by citrus greening, the following approved practices are eligible for TAP assistance:

- Fruit and nut tree replacement per tree
- Planting cost per eligible tree
- Site preparation per acre.

**12. Are there acreage limitations for TAP?**

Yes, the total cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes, or vines, where a producer may receive TAP, shall not exceed 500 acres annually.

**13. How are TAP payments calculated?**

Payments are limited to the lesser of the following:

- Practice rates established by the Farm Service Agency, **or**
- 65 percent of the actual cost of replanting trees on the eligible stand, in excess of 15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal mortality) **and**
- Reimbursement of 50 percent of the cost of pruning, removing, and other costs incurred to salvage existing trees or, in the case of tree mortality, to prepare the land to replant the trees, in excess of 15 percent damage or mortality, adjusted for normal tree damage and mortality.

**14. When will I receive my TAP payment?**

TAP payments will be issued once all approved practices on the stand have been completed and the FSA county committee has approved the application for payment.

**15. Are there limits on TAP payments?**

Yes. By statute, no person or legal entity, except joint ventures or general partnerships, may receive more than \$125,000 in assistance. Individuals or entities with average gross income exceeding \$900,000 are ineligible for payment. Consult your local FSA office for details.

**16. Are TAP payments subject to Congressionally mandated payment reductions (sequester)?**

Yes. TAP applications that are approved after Sept. 30, 2014, are subject to a payment reduction of 7.3 percent as required by the Budget Control Act passed by Congress in 2011.

*This document is for general informational purposes only. Other restrictions may apply. For more information, producers may review the Tree Assistance Program fact sheet at [www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/factsheets) or contact their local county FSA office at <http://go.usa.gov/pYV3>.*