

## Citrus psyllid pest found in Visalia, agricultural officials say

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In a September 2013 file photo, an Asian citrus psyllid is seen in an insect trap in a citrus grove near Fowler.

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A single Asian citrus psyllid was found on a lemon tree in a southwest Visalia neighborhood, Tulare County agriculture officials said Monday.

The pest was discovered on an insect trap in a residential area, just west of Akers Avenue and south of Tulare Avenue. The tree and any surrounding citrus trees will be treated, said Dennis Haines, Tulare County's agricultural staff biologist. Additional insect traps will also be placed in the area to determine if there are any more insects.

The psyllid was found last Friday and adds to several other recent psyllid finds in the Orange Cove area.

The tiny insect is considered a dangerous pest to the citrus industry because of its ability to transmit huanglongbing, a deadly virus capable of killing a citrus tree.

So far, the disease has not been found in the central San Joaquin Valley's citrus growing regions, but more than 300 psyllids have been identified.