



Fresh Alert
December 11, 2007 - Citrus Quarantine

Hi, this is Jim Naylor with another Produce FreshAlert...for FreshPoint. Florida agriculture officials have quarantined California citrus from entering Florida. The quarantine took effect December 1st. The first quarantined fruit was denied entry into Florida Friday, December 7. The central sticking point is a fungus, Septoria Citri, which has existed in California for over 50 years. The fungus is considered an insignificant and non-actionable pest by the USDA. Florida had originally demanded that Californiagrowers inspect groves 30 days prior to harvest, but now is willing to allow inspections for the fungus at the packing facilities. California growers say it sends a wrong message to consumers and to the export market that something may be wrong with California citrus. California growers and shippers have gone into Florida court asking for a restraining order, saying Florida is acting based on politics, not science. Florida ag officials told us they hope the dispute can be settled this week. Florida imports California Lemons, Navel Oranges and specialty citrus like Pomelos and Kumquats. California ships about 5 million cartons of citrus each year to Florida. Your FreshPoint salesperson will have the latest information as soon as new information becomes available.