

Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) Assessment Policy For Polk County Abandoned Grove Initiative

The Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) was created to manage the impact of citrus canker and citrus greening in commercial citrus groves. To accomplish that purpose, this program declares citrus canker, citrus greening, and the Asian citrus psyllid to be plant pest and nuisances. The program also sets forth procedures for establishing quarantine areas, identifying regulated articles, decontaminating regulated articles, and regulating the movement of citrus nursery stock from areas quarantined for citrus greening. ([Rule: 5B-63.001 F.A.C.](#))

Participation in the program qualifies grove owners with abandoned or unmanaged citrus groves to maintain the AG Classification for five (5) years after the date of execution of a compliance agreement between the landowner and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

CHRP Qualification Process

- Contact the local FDACS Citrus Health Program Office and request information about the Abandoned Grove Initiative.
- Provide the necessary documentation to the FDACS Citrus Health Program Office to verify abandonment of grove. The FDACS inspectors may visit the land to verify status.
- At the expense of the landowner, the citrus trees in the abandoned, unmanaged, or diseased grove must be destroyed. Once destroyed, the owner must contact the FDACS for destruction verification and an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement.
- **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PROPERTY APPRAISER:**
 - If the property is not currently receiving the Agricultural Classification, an AG Application is required, and should be submitted prior to March 1st.
NOTE: Properties currently receiving Agricultural Classification do not need to file a new AG Application.
 - The landowner must provide the Polk County Property Appraiser a copy of the Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement (which has been approved and dated prior to **June 30TH** of the applicable year) in order to receive the CHRP Abandoned Grove assessment for that tax year.
 - The CHRP site report (Verification of Voluntary Destruction of Citrus Trees) that is provided to the owner by the CHRP local office should be included with the CHRP Compliance Agreement.
- The landowner must maintain compliance under the Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement. The lower assessment will be in place for a period of 5 years per [FS 193.461 \(7\)\(a\)](#).
- After receiving the CHRP Abandoned Grove assessment, if a different agricultural operation is put in place, other than citrus, the assessment will change according to the current AG use. Any non-agricultural use will be assessed at full market value.
- If a parcel is sold or transferred while an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement is active, the agreement is no longer valid. The parcel will be assessed at full market value unless a new AG operation is put in place and a new application is filed.

For additional Citrus Health Response Program information contact:

Citrus Health Program Office - Winter Haven Office - Supervisor, Jeremy Gilbert (Jeremy.Gilbert@FreshFromFlorida.com)

Serves: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Osceola, Manatee Counties

3027 Lake Alfred Road, Winter Haven, Florida 33881-1438

PHONE: (863)298-3000

CELL: (863)227-0160

FAX: (863)298-3002

HELPLINE: 1-888-397-1517

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/citrus-health-response-program>

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Bureaus-and-Services/Office-Locations/Citrus-Health-Program-Offices>