

Brokaw Nursery statement on citrus production

For several years we have been producing full sized citrus trees in inflated structures in order to ensure that we can continue to supply the industry in the unwelcome but likely event of the arrival of HLB in our area. These structures have been ideal for our purposes, since they provide us with the room and ease of ingress & egress to enable large scale production of our traditional plants.

The structures require maintenance including replacement of the plastic covers on a periodic basis. It has become evident that we will be unable to maintain the structures in the future. In the event of a future breach when HLB is present in the region, Brokaw Nursery will be required to destroy all plant material that is exposed to the environment.

This situation poses risk and uncertainty to our customers as well as to ourselves. To manage this risk, we are limiting our acceptance of future orders and discussing the situation with our customers who are holding confirmed orders for future delivery.

Specifically, any orders placed but not confirmed by deposits as of the due date will be withdrawn. We will reduce the window in which trees can be ordered so that we are not committing to far future orders that we might not be able to service. All customers holding orders for delivery after 2020 that are confirmed by payment of deposit are being contacted so that we can discuss the situation in detail, define risks and provide options. Any customers holding such orders who wish to cancel may do so without loss of their deposit.

At this moment, we detect no signs of imminent failure in either of our structures. Our hope is that they will remain in service for the foreseeable future. We continue to seek solutions and are hopeful that we will be successful in finding a reliable solution that enables us to continue our sixty year run of producing quality citrus trees.