



**DATE:** March 22, 2023

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Amend Citrus Rules

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 and O.C.G.A. § 2-7-23, notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Agriculture will accept written comments regarding proposed amendments to its existing Citrus Rules, GA. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 40-4-26-.01, et seq. (the “Citrus Rules”). **The Department will accept written comments from Thursday, March 23, 2023, until the close of business (4:30 p.m. ET) on Friday, April 21, 2023.**

**SYNOPSIS, MAIN FEATURES AND DIFFERENCES:**

**Synopsis:**

The Department hereby seeks to amend the Citrus Rules. Proposed changes (a) streamline the process for the Commissioner to designate citrus-related plant pests, (b) extend the sale of non-certified citrus budwood, (c) remove redundant provisions, and (d) implement minor clean up changes.

**Proposed Amendments Regarding the Declaration of Plant Pests:**

Proposed changes:

- The proposed amendments clarify that the Commissioner will identify and declare citrus-related plant pests, as needed, and that the Department will publish a list of those plant pests on the Department’s website. GA. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 40-4-26-.03.

**Proposed Amendments Regarding Citrus Nursery Plants Propagated from Uncertified Budwood:**

Proposed changes:

- The proposed amendments extend the deadline for growers to sell uncertified citrus budwood, and clarify requirements for such sales. GA. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 40-4-26-.06(1)(f)(iii)-(iv).

**Clean Up Changes:**

Proposed changes:

- The proposed amendments implement clean up changes. GA. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 40-4-26-.05(3) & 40-4-26-.07(3).



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tyler Harper, Commissioner

[www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov)

- The proposed amendments repeal redundant provisions. GA. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 40-4-26-.09.

### **COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will be accepting written comments from **Thursday, March 23, 2023, until the close of business (4:30 p.m. ET) on Friday, April 21, 2023**. Public comments and the adoption of the amended Citrus Rules will be considered at **1 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023**, in Room 201 of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, 19 M.L.K. Jr. Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. Please submit written comments to:

Mike Evans  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
1109 Experiment Street, Redding Building, Room 213  
Telephone Number: 404.586.1140  
E-mail: [Mike.Evans@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Mike.Evans@agr.georgia.gov)

Interested persons may call or submit a written request to obtain a copy of the proposed rule changes. A copy of the synopsis and the proposed rule changes may be downloaded from the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

This notice is given in compliance with the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.