



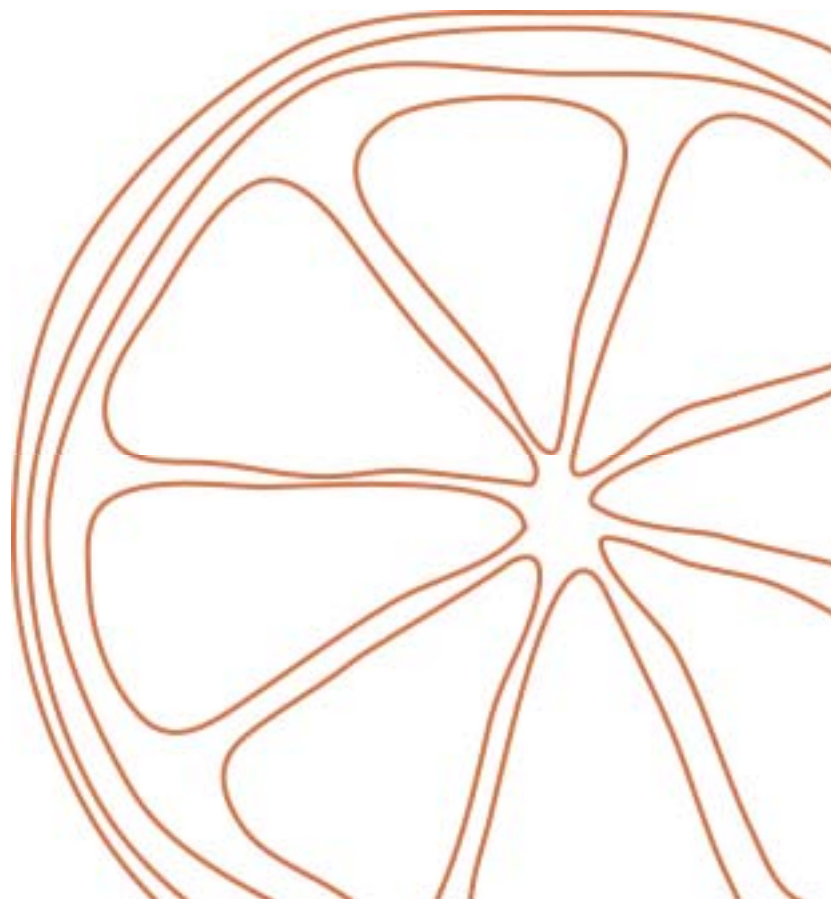
Australian Citrus
Growers Inc.

Australian Citrus Growers 57th Annual Conference

6 – 10 March 2005

Coolum and Bargara, Queensland

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS



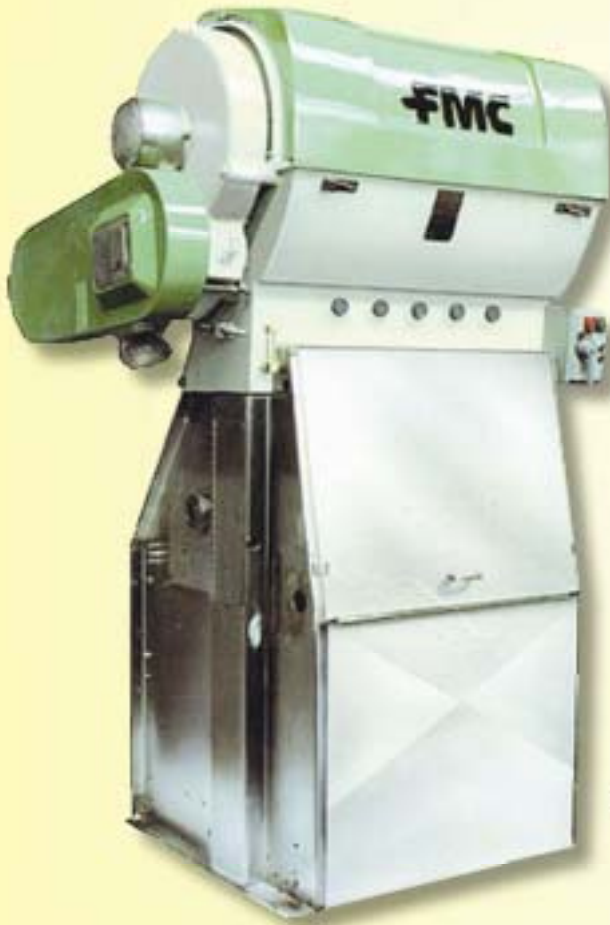
ACG 57th Annual Conference, 6 – 10 March 2005, Queensland

Time	Event
Sunday 6 March – Hyatt Coolum	
3.00pm	Australian Fruit Juice Association (AFJA) Registration
6.00pm	Official Opening – The Hon. Warren Truss, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
6.30pm	Welcome dinner
Monday 7 March – Hyatt Coolum	
8.30am – 12.30pm	AFJA presentations and speakers
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 5.00pm	Networking and socialising
Tuesday 8 March – Hyatt Coolum	
9.00am – 5.00pm	AFJA presentations and speakers
8.00am – 8.30am	ACG Registration
8.30am – 9.20am	National Citrus Levy Payers Meeting – ACG / HAL / PHA
9.20am – 10.10am	ACG Member's Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACG Strategy 2003-06 & Annual Report 2005 - Affiliates reports: Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) and Horticulture Australia Council (HAC) - Issues raised by Members
10.10am – 10.40am	Morning Tea
10.40am – 12.30pm	ACG Member's Forum continued ACG AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes - Annual Report - Financial Statements - Appointment of Directors - Appointment of Delegates - Special Resolutions - General Business - Next AGM
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm – 3.00pm	ACG / AHEA Export Marketing Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A panel of exporters to interact with conference participants
3.00pm – 4.00pm	ACG Board Meeting
6.30pm	Cocktail Party and Official Dinner

ACG 57th Annual Conference, 6 – 10 March 2005, Queensland

Time	Event
Wednesday 9 March – Don Pancho Beach Resort, Bargarra	
Grower's Day – field trip and research reports	
10.00am	Leave Don Pancho for Abbotsleigh
11.00am	Arrive Abbotsleigh, morning tea
11.15am	Tour Abbotsleigh, innovations talk from owner, new lemon plantings
12.00pm	Leave Abbotsleigh
12.10pm	Arrive McLennans, lunch
1.00pm	Tour McLennans, innovations talk from owner, packingshed and machinery
1.30pm	Depart McLennans
2.30pm	Arrive Don Pancho, afternoon tea
3.00pm	Researcher presentations to be chaired by Ken Peters, HortSuper 3.00pm – 3.15pm Malcolm Smith 3.15pm – 3.30pm Ken Bevington 3.30pm – 3.45pm Steve Falivene 3.45pm – 4.00pm Annice Lloyd 4.00pm – 4.15pm Pauline Wyatt 4.15pm – 4.30pm Andrew Thompson 4.30pm – 5.00pm Chris Adriaansen
6.30pm	Grower's Day Dinner
Thursday 10 March – Don Pancho Beach Resort, Bargarra	
National Citrus Liaison Meeting to be chaired by Malcolm Wallis, Citricare	
9.00am	Five minute project updates
10.30am	Morning tea
11.00am	Five minute project updates
12.00noon	Hot topic raised
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Hot topic discussed, actions raised and allocated
3.00pm	Afternoon tea
6.30pm	Dinner

FMC FoodTech



From Protective Coatings, Labelling Systems, Premium Juice Extraction and Complete Production Facilities, FMC FoodTech has been a leader in the fresh produce preservation industry since 1937. As the industry leader, we ensure that quality is at the centre of all our produce preservation offerings.



All FMC FoodTech coating products provide maximum protection for fruits and vegetables during packing, storage, shipping and marketing.

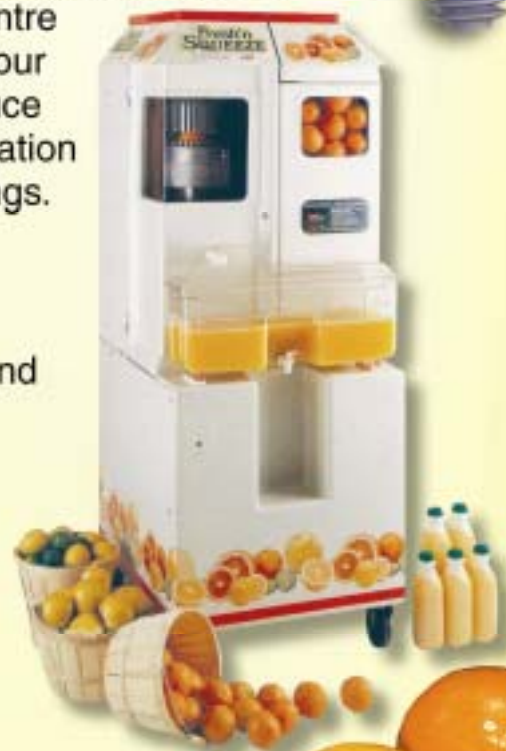
FMC FoodTech

FMC Technologies Australia - www.fmcfoodtech.com

Toll Free: 1800 350 634

Gary Watson: gary.watson@fmcti.com

Michael Jones: michael.jones@fmcti.com



Conference Attendees

Full Conference – all sessions 6 to 9 March

Ron	Allison	EE Muir & Sons P/L
Kent	Andrew	Citrus Growers of South Australia
Rohan	Boehm	Australian Citrus News
Sue	Braz	NSW North Coast Citrus Growers
Gernolous	Bronkhorst	FMC FoodTech South Africa
John	Cade	Emerald Limes
Robert	Clarke	Favco
Alan	Conklin	FMC FoodTech
Dr John	Cox	
Lynne	Crook	
Carol	Davidson	Leeton Citrus Growers
John	Davidson	Berri
Graham	Eipper	Riverina Citrus
Roger	Forster	FMC FoodTech
Dr Peter	Gallasch	South Australia Research and Development Institute
Andrew	Green	Citrus Board of South Australia
Robert	Hodde	Gunnible Pastoral Co P/L
Stuart	Holland	Vic Department of Primary Industries
Allen	Jenkin	Growcom
Michael	Jones	FMC FoodTech
Tom	Kittle	FMC FoodTech
James	Lochert	Lochert Bros P/L
Seamus	Maloney	EE Muir & Sons P/L
Ron	Maynard	Coochin Creek Farm
Douglas	Moody	FMC FoodTech
Paul	Morris	Avotec Pty Ltd
Judy	Morris	Avotec Pty Ltd
Robert	Morton	Favco
Victor	Nardi	Leeton Citrus Growers
Garry	Nash	Milford Industries
Kevin	Parr	Growcom
Brian	Perkins	FMC FoodTech
Craig	Perring	Australian Citrus News
Ken	Peters	HortSuper
Robert	Sjollema	Australian Citrus Growers
Stan	Roberts	BLS Roberts
Beth	Roberts	BLS Roberts
Andrew	Thompson	South Australia Research and Development Institute
Andrew	Thompson	Australian Citrus Growers
Gary	Watson	FMC FoodTech
Ross	Whittaker	Evergreen Farms
Russell	Witcombe	Mildura Fruit Company

ACG Business Day – Tuesday 8 March

Greg	Beales	WA Citrus Council
Lee	Byrne	Australian Citrus Growers
Jim	Cant	Impi Highland P/L
Bronwyn	Cant	Impi Highland P/L
Mark	Chown	Citrus Growers of South Australia
Vicki	Cock	
Kevin	Cock	Australian Citrus Growers
Michael	Crook	Citrus Industry Advisory Committee
Peter	Davidson	Australian Citrus Growers
Stewart	Dobson	Kimberley Produce
Rosalie	Dobson	Kimberley Produce
Ben	Dring	Yandilla Park
Neil	Eagle	Willowood Nominees
Gavin	Foord	WA Citrus IDO
Sandra	Hardy	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Dennis	Hodgson	Lochert Brothers
Raylene	Kemp	Australian Citrus Growers
Robert	McFerran	WA Citrus Growers Association
Franca	Nardi	Leeton Citrus Growers
Carlo	Scamuffo	F& J Taddei Nominees P/L
Mark	Scott	WA Citrus Council
Chris	Simpson	Queensland Citrus Growers
Merveen	Sjollema	
Ross	Skinner	Horticulture Australia Limited
John	Tesoriero	Murray Valley Citrus Board
Kym	Thiel	Citrus Growers of South Australia
Peter	Walker	Horticulture Australia Limited
Bruce	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm
Jenny	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm

Growers Day – Wednesday 9 March

Chris	Adriaansen	Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (NCCEP)
Mike	Ashton	Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (NCCEP)
Elizabeth	Baker	Cooranga Citrus
Rod	Baker	Cooranga Citrus
Margaret	Baker	Cooranga Citrus
Phil	Baker	Cooranga Citrus
Ken	Bevington	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Lee	Byrne	Australian Citrus Growers
Jim	Cant	Impi Highland P/L
Bronwyn	Cant	Impi Highland P/L
Geoffrey	Derrick	Colin Campbell (Chemicals) P/L
Stewart	Dobson	Kimberley Produce
Rosalie	Dobson	Kimberley Produce
Ben	Dring	Yandilla Park
Steven	Falivene	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Gavin	Foord	WA Citrus IDO
Brian	Gallagher	Citrus Monitoring Services Pty Ltd
Edward	Hamacek	Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries
Sandra	Hardy	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Dennis	Hodgson	Lochert Brothers
Svenska	Jeffrey	QDPI&F (NCCEP)
Col	Lawrie	AEP Industries
Dr Annice	Lloyd	Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries
Col	Marchant	Colin Campbell (Chemicals) P/L
Mick	Matthews	2PH Farms
Peter	Morrish	Murray Valley Citrus Board
John	Owen-Turner	J Owen-Turner Pty Ltd
Carlo	Scamuffo	F& J Taddei Nominees P/L
Chris	Simpson	Queensland Citrus Growers
Merveen	Sjollema	
Ross	Skinner	Horticulture Australia Limited
Kym	Thiel	Citrus Growers of South Australia
Nicole	Tulk	AEP Industries
Bruce	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm
Jenny	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm
Pauline	Wyatt	Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries
Ramsay	Zreikat	Colin Campbell (Chemicals) P/L

National Citrus Liaison Meeting – Thursday 10 March

Ken	Bevington	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Sue	Braz	NSW North Coast Citrus Growers
Lee	Byrne	Australian Citrus Growers
John	Davidson	Berri
Ben	Dring	Yandilla Park
Graham	Eipper	Riverina Citrus
Steven	Falivene	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Gavin	Foord	WA Citrus IDO
Brian	Gallagher	Citrus Monitoring Services Pty Ltd
Dr Peter	Gallasch	SARDI
Edward	Hamacek	QDPI&F
Sandra	Hardy	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Dennis	Hodgson	Lochert Brothers
Svenska	Jeffrey	QDPI&F (NCCEP)
Allen	Jenkin	Growcom
Col	Lawrie	AEP Industries
Dr Annice	Lloyd	QDPI&F
Peter	Morrish	Murray Valley Citrus Board
John	Owen-Turner	J Owen-Turner Pty Ltd
Dan	Papcek	Bugs for Bugs
Kevin	Parr	Growcom
Carlo	Scamuffo	F& J Taddei Nominees P/L
Ross	Skinner	Horticulture Australia Limited
Kym	Thiel	Citrus Growers of South Australia
Andrew	Thompson	SARDI
Andrew	Thompson	Australian Citrus Growers
Nicole	Tulk	AEP Industries
Malcolm	Wallis	Citricare
Bruce	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm
Jenny	Wharton	Apricot Acres Farm
Pauline	Wyatt	QDPI&F

When it comes to making a ChoiceMake it count!



For a very large number of Australian workers, "Choice of Superannuation Fund" legislation will come into effect from July 1st this year (2005). Implementing the required steps under this legislation may add to the workload of employers, and probably create a number of questions for employees. It will also, no doubt, generate a level of interest in superannuation that has been absent for many people.

What is Choice of Fund?

The term refers to the capacity of employees to nominate, from 1 July 2005, the superannuation fund into which compulsory employer superannuation contributions must be made.

Which Employees will be offered Choice?

From that date all employees must be offered choice except where the employer is required to contribute to any of the following:

- A nominated fund in a collective Certified Agreement or individual Australian Workplace Agreement;
- An arrangement specified under a State industrial award;
- An unfunded public sector scheme where the employer is a statutory or government body; or
- The Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme or Public Sector Scheme until such time as amendments are made to enable employees in these arrangements to choose a fund.

Implications for Employers where Choice must be offered:

- A Standard Choice Form (currently being developed by the Tax Office) must be provided to employees
 - (a) by 29 July 2005 for existing employees at 1 July 2005, or
 - (b) within 28 days from the date of commencement of employment unless that employee has already chosen a fund.
- The Standard Choice Form will contain some information and important facts that employees should consider before making a choice.
- If employees do not choose a fund, employers will continue to make contributions to the same fund they were using prior to 1 July, 2005, provided that fund meets the new minimum level of insurance benefits. (**note 1)
- Employers do not have to accept a choice election from an employee if that employee has previously selected a fund within the past year, or if the employee does not provide sufficient written evidence – including name and contact details of the fund, and evidence that the fund will accept contributions.

What are the penalties for failure to comply?

Employers not meeting the choice requirements will be subject to a 'choice penalty' of up to \$500 per employee for each 'notice period'.

(**note 2)

Where do we come in?

Australian Primary Superannuation Fund, now including the HortSuper Division, is the largest industry fund dedicated to serving people in the horticulture and other primary industries. We have offices in four states and:

- We already offer all members a choice of four investment options (or any combination thereof).
- We provide the death benefit insurance cover that permits us being nominated as the Fund of Choice by any employee in any state.
- We have consistently been recognised as one of the lowest cost funds for members.
- Our performance has been amongst the funds providing the top net crediting rates.
- We are widely known to provide sponsorship and support to industry associations – especially in areas of workplace safety and training.

Therefore – when it comes to any choice of fund, the choice that will count for you, your employees and your industry, is the HortSuper Division of Australian Primary Superannuation Fund. Call Ken Peters on (02) 9411 4077 for more information, or check the website www.australianprimary.com.au.

**note 1 – Regulations defining the minimum level are still being finalised at the time of writing. Please refer to the Treasury website or contact us to obtain more details as they come to hand.

**note 2 – Full details of the penalties are available from the ATO – or may be found in the Annual Report of APSF & HortSuper.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the reliability of the information given in this publication, no representation is given, warranty made or responsibility taken as to its accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The Trustee of Australian Primary Superannuation Fund, Farm Plan Pty Limited ABN 60 362 355 823, will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from the use and reliance on this publication.





**ONLY ONE MAGAZINE
DELIVERS INDUSTRY NEWS DIRECT**

AUSTRALIAN



A PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CITRUS GROWERS INCORPORATED

**Citrus
NEWS**

The revised Australian Citrus News format was launched by AgriMedia for ACG and the industry at the beginning of 2004, and with great support from industry, has succeeded in becoming the leading horticultural industry journal.

Each issue of ACN focuses on providing timely information that covers citrus production, the value chain, levy-funded research and industry organisation news. The editorial is independently researched and written from information supplied by researchers and leading players of the citrus industry.

Employing producers' own levies, ACN is distributed as a free-subscription colour magazine to all citrus growers in Australia. The balance of revenue to support the magazine is provided by a consistent and growing list of advertisers who recognise the importance of ACN as a key tool to communicate their message to the industry.

With ACN, advertisers find they are able to deliver their advertising effort direct to all Australian citrus growers with each issue.

The 2004 Annual Readership Survey found that over 9000 readers are attracted to each issue and while 80% of readers indicated their interest in reading every copy cover to cover.

Australian Citrus News has its own website - www.citrusnews.com.au.

The website is ideal to look up key articles from the past and to get more information on advertising and subscribing.

For further information, contact AgriMedia.
Tel 02 4587 9588 or email info@agrimedia.com.au

AgriMedia
ACN04F001

Wednesday 9 March

Presentation Outlines

Delivering improved genetics for commercial citrus production

Malcolm Smith
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Today's commercial scion and rootstock varieties are very different to those being grown 20 or 30 years ago. While we might think that our main varieties have been with us for ever, this is not the case and a review of budwood and seed sales from just a few decades ago shows things like Rough Lemon rootstock and Ellendale and Valencia budwood featuring prominently, with barely a mention of Troyer, Imperial, Murcott or Navellina. This transition to newer varieties has seldom happened quickly, but it is a slow progression that will continue as better genetic material becomes available.

The national citrus industry and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (QDPI&F) are working in partnership to providing growers with improved scion and rootstock varieties. These improvements are essential if the industry is to remain competitive on international markets, and to compete effectively with future imports on the Australian market.

Recent work in Queensland has had some success in identifying both scion and rootstock germplasm that may outperform existing commercial varieties. Two low-seeded Murcott selections (one that also incorporates improved colour) have been released for commercial test plantings within Queensland. Furthermore, our experiments have demonstrated that Benton outperforms Troyer as rootstock for Imperial and other mandarins, and commercial plantings of this combination are now taking place. It will be many years before we can declare the low-seed Murcotts and the Imperial/Benton combination commercial successes, but they do represent progress toward improving existing industry varieties.

Future improvements in scion and rootstock varieties should result from work currently underway with mandarin hybridisation, triploid and mutation breeding, and from large rootstock experiments with mandarin and lemon.

Postharvest rind breakdown in navel oranges

Ken Bevington, Lingwen Zeng (NSW DPI); Michael Treeby, Richard Storey (CSIRO Plant Industry); Peter Gallasch, Andrew Thompson (SARDI)

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Postharvest rind breakdown can be a serious problem for navel orange exports, especially to the USA. NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), CSIRO and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) have been conducting research to understand the factors possibly contributing to the problem and to devise practical means to reduce its incidence through the levy funded Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) project CT01029 '*Communicating the effects of production conditions on outturn quality*'.

A number of on-farm factors have been investigated. Gibberellic acid (GA) is used to delay rind aging, and is particularly effective against albedo breakdown but its effect on the incidence of postharvest rind breakdown is less clear. Trials have been carried out to determine the optimum timing of GA sprays in relation to colour development and minimising postharvest breakdown problems. Irrigation management has not been found to be a factor in postharvest rind breakdown to date, but tree nutrient status has been linked to the incidence of rind breakdown.

Growers/packers and exporters need to have the means to objectively estimate rind age, and based on that estimate, the predisposition of fruit to breakdown. This is a complicated issue, influenced by seasonal conditions and made difficult by the prolonged flowering period characteristic of citrus. Nonetheless, a number of approaches to this are being pursued, including rind colour development, infra red spectroscopy and gene expression.

Season Update

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The Season Update service provides a fortnightly to monthly update on citrus developments for the southern growing districts during the season. The service includes information on pest movements, flowering, fruit set, heat units, harvest updates, general orchard reminders and more. The updates are only short summary of about half a page long. The full reports are available from the ACG website: www.australiancitrusgrowers.com, Season Update section.

The service has already been running for over a year. The service is for free and it automatically sends you information via email and/or fax. The updates are posted whenever the season update web page is updated so you will know whenever there is new information on the season update web site and also on the fact sheet page.

To register yourself for a free subscription to the season update e-mail and fax service phone fax, e-mail Steven Falivene with your appropriate details:
P 03 50198405 F 03 50274319 E steven.falivene@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

The Season Update web page and subscription service is a part of the levy funded Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Rind Quality project.



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MILFORD

**STACKING BUSINESS
IN YOUR FAVOUR**

Fruit fly area wide management and market access

Annice Lloyd, Ed Hamacek, Chris Neale, Thelma Peek
Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries, Queensland

Annice Lloyd
Research Scientist
Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries
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The first attempt to implement an area wide fruit fly management program in Queensland has now been in progress for eighteen months in the citrus growing Central Burnett district.

The program, known as the 'Fruit Fly Force', is lead by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland (QDPI&F) researchers and involves citrus and other horticultural producers, three local crop consultants, and the Shire Councils of Gayndah and Mundubbera.

To date, the program has had excellent support from the community with 90% of growers and 85% of town property owners participating.

The fruit fly control strategies that are being implemented in orchards and towns are regular protein baiting during fruiting times and year round distribution of male annihilation devices (small plastic cups containing lure/insecticide dosed wicks targeting Queensland fruit flies).

Greatly reduced trap catches across the district and significant reduction in infestation in town fruit are now providing evidence that the program is beginning to have positive effects.

The anticipated long term commercial benefits will be more effective on-farm fruit fly control and improved market access opportunities for Central Burnett horticultural commodities.

Citrus Black Spot and Market Access

Pauline Wyatt, Marianne Eelkema, Rosemary Kopittke, Andrew Miles, Ed Hamacek
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland

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Only Australian citrus grown in areas free from fruit flies and citrus black spot (CBS) can access the lucrative United States (US) market. While current disease management strategies provide a high level of CBS control, which is acceptable to existing domestic and export markets, they have never been proven to control CBS to the level required by US quarantine authorities.

This project aims to develop and evaluate a management system for CBS control utilising a combination of preharvest and postharvest practices that will meet the US requirements.

An industry reference committee comprised of growers, local crop consultants and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland (QDPI&F) project team was set-up to ensure that the management practices are defined in consultation with growers and are thus practicable and achievable in the Central Burnett.

A district-wide survey showed that the current incidence of the disease is lower than expected as most of the blocks tested had less than 15% of fruit infected and one third of the blocks had no infected fruit. The CBS management system is being assessed on three orchards in the Central Burnett this season.

National Plantings Database

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The Australian citrus industry will soon have a comprehensive, detailed record of citrus tree plantings and irrigation systems, covering all known citrus growing enterprises in Australia.

In conjunction with regional citrus organisations, Australian Citrus Growers (ACG) is managing a Horticulture Australia Limited levy funded project known as the National Plantings Database project.

The National Plantings Database project aims to comprehensively survey citrus properties within all regions of Australia where citrus is grown, to develop a database of citrus plantings information. Plantings information is pertinent for the industry to enable production of annual citrus crop and longer term forecasts. These forecasts aid industry and individual grower planning for current and future varieties in the market.

What is the project?

- Every known citrus growing area in Australia has been aerial photographed.
- Each grower within these regions will be surveyed and asked questions relating to variety, rootstock, tree age and other details such as irrigation method.
- The data is recorded into the national plantings database. The database is based on ESRI ArcView GIS (Geographic Information System) software.
- The grower receives a Crop Plan which is an A4 printed aerial photograph of their property with a table showing the planting details they provided during the survey.
- Reporting of regional and national statistics is provided from the plantings database.

Further Information

Refer to the Australian Citrus Growers web site for additional information, reports and sample crop plans, www.australiancitrusgrowers.com.

Queensland Canker Situation and On-farm Biosecurity Measures

Chris Adriaansen
General Manager, Plant Biosecurity
Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (QDPI&F)

Information to be handed out at conference.