

Season Update – Queensland

September 2005 Report

In blocks where a **split copper** is recommended the first application should be made at 0 – 10% petal fall. The second application should be made approximately two to three weeks later at 90 – 100% petal fall. All other blocks can receive a single application of copper fungicide at between 75% and 100% petal fall. If extended rainfall is predicted during this period then growers should apply their copper sprays earlier rather than later. Copper is considered important for the first fungicide as it is the only material that offers protection against melanose.

Zinc is commonly deficient in our soils and should be applied each year unless soil and leaf analyses indicate otherwise. Generally zinc is applied with the copper fungicide. Where growers are using hydraulic oscillating boom sprayers a single application at 100 grams per 100 litres, on an expanding flush, should suffice. Air blast sprayers that are applying lower volumes per hectare may require a double application of zinc.

Boron supplements may also be required. Soil and leaf analyses should be used to decide on the boron requirement. An excess of boron can be toxic to citrus. Many growers apply boron every second year. Boron should not be mixed with zinc sulphate sprays.

The Central Burnett **Fruit Fly Area Wide Management** program is getting excellent results with a marked reduction in infestations in highly susceptible crops in the townships of Gayndah and Mundubbera. Growers are reminded that they should continue baiting Murcott, Valencia and lemon blocks even at a reduced level. Fruit left hanging on the trees represent a risk for fruit fly breeding at this time of the year. Any blocks with fruit still hanging must receive a routine bait program. All horticulturalists in the Central Burnett should be putting out their MAT cups for suppression of male fruit fly at the moment. The ongoing success of the program is dependent upon growers continuing to apply pressure on the fruit fly population.

Gall wasp should emerge over two to three weeks from the end of September. The emerging adults mate and female wasps lay their eggs into the fresh flush. The parasites usually emerge around two to three weeks later and proceed to deposit their eggs into those of the gall wasp. Both the gall wasp and its parasite have only one generation per year.

Water use is starting to increase slightly. Many growers will be starting to increase the frequency although not necessarily the volume of water applications.

Source: Dan Papacek, Bugs for Bugs