

Season Update – QUEENSLAND

August 2005 Report

Harvest of Murcott and Valencia is now well under way. Many growers will have completed harvest by the end of August.

An early **flowering** is underway especially in lemon blocks. The flowering is likely to be protracted in most varieties. However Imperials are only just showing signs of budburst.

Copper fungicides will need to commence early where flowering is advanced. Split applications of the first fungicide are recommended in high risk blocks where the flowering is protracted. Zinc should be included with copper sprays. Some growers should also consider manganese and/or boron supplements depending on nutritional status of individual blocks.

Black spot was a serious issue this season with probably the highest levels for at least 5 years. Up to 100mm of rain was recorded in parts of the Central Burnett during October 2004. This was just before the second fungicide was due to be applied. It is at this time when black spot infection most likely occurred.

Most growers will already have applied part of the **nitrogen** requirement for the season. Other major elements (eg Phosphorous) will be applied later unless soil analyses indicate a deficiency.

Thrips have been recorded from some early flowering lemon blocks. Growers are advised to avoid using thripicides at this stage if possible as only one spray per season is recommended and it will be better to treat the main flowering if required.

Gall wasp counts will be conducted over the next month to determine which block may need specific treatment.

Water use is still relatively low at this stage of the season.

Source: Dan Papacek, Bugs for Bugs