

Season Update – WESTERN AUSTRALIA

August 2005 Report

Climate

Average rainfall and temperatures were received in the south west growing regions during August. Much of the rainfall in the Gingin/Bindoon region was received in heavy down falls, associated with frontal activity, punctuated by lengthy dry periods. Rainfall in the southern region was spread more evenly throughout the month.

Production

Imperial harvest finished mid month in most regions, with the exception of some areas in the Darling Scarp where harvest finished towards the end of the month. Hickson harvest started early this month in the west Gingin area and will continue into next month in the Harvey and Bindoon areas. Mystique mandarins in the West Gingin area have reached 8:1 sugar acid ratio but will not be harvested until September/October.

Navel harvest continued with mid season varieties (mainly Washingtons) during this month and will continue into September.

Pests

Snails have been a problem in some orchards in the Harvey region. Red scale has continued to be observed in isolated areas throughout the region and has occasionally been observed in Perth retail outlets. These pest problems can be avoided by adopting more diligent monitoring and control programs.

Source: Helen Ramsey, WA Department of Agriculture