

# season update

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA – NOVEMBER 2005 REPORT

### Climate

Late rains finished mid month and temperatures rose rapidly. All properties are now irrigating. High iron concentrations in irrigation water is causing concern for some growers.

### Production

Still harvesting later varieties such as Murcotts, Late Lane and grapefruit. Most growers are now looking forward to a few weeks of reduced activity so they can recharge the batteries.

### Phenology

Most varieties are at 'end of petal fall' stage, although some are still producing small flushes of new flowers, possibly a symptom of the cool spring experienced this year.

Some areas experienced a larger than normal leaf drop (especially in smaller trees), also possibly due to cool spring temperatures. Low soil temperatures may have inhibited uptake of water by the roots making them unable to supply sufficient moisture to satisfy the requirements of the spring flush.

### Pests and Disease

Rains early in November delayed the aestivation of snails in some south west areas, extending the effective snail baiting period. Orchards that continue to have snail problems will need to be diligent with baiting efforts in autumn (March to April) before the break of season. Release of beneficial insects to control red scale continued this month and will continue into December. Red and black scale crawlers and citrus leaf miner are now active and need to be monitored to ensure the best timing of oil sprays.

*Source: Helen Ramsey, WA Department of Agriculture*