

Season Update – Western Australia

October 2005 Report

Climate

A wetter than average spring was experienced over much of the south west citrus growing region. Temperatures warmed up and winter rainfall ceased mid October, alleviating water logging in the Harvey area and bringing a start to the new irrigation season. Strong winds in the hills area early in the month damaged new growth on some trees (small trees were worst affected).

Production

Harvest of late navel varieties finished in most areas towards the end of the month. Red Flesh Grapefruit harvest in the northern south west areas also finished towards the end of October. Harvest of White Flesh Grapefruit started early in September and will continue into next month. Mandarin varieties Murcott, Ellendale, Hickson and Mystique were harvested this month. Lemon Harvest also continues.

Phenology

Early flowering varieties in the warmer coastal plain areas came into full bloom towards the end of the month.

Pests and Disease

Snails continue to be a problem in some orchards and should be baited while conditions are still moist before the summer dormancy period. Ants started to move this month and will require monitoring and control throughout summer. Release of beneficial insects to control red scale started this month and will continue into November/December.

Source: Helen Ramsey, WA Department of Agriculture