

## **Season Update – Western Australia**

### **September 2005 Report**

#### **Production**

An early harvest of Mystique mandarins started in late August in the West Gingin area and will continue into September and October in other south west areas. Hickson mandarin harvest finished in most areas this month. Murcott mandarin harvest started in the Gingin/Bindoon areas and will continue into October in regions further south. Harvest of Ellendale mandarins began late in the month in the Harvey area. Harvest of navels continued throughout the month with a mix of mid and late season varieties.

#### **Pests and Diseases**

As spring warms up beneficial insects will start appearing. Aphids and fruit fly will also start to appear. If controlling aphids only spray the growth flushes and keep an eye out for fruit fly in ripening fruit. If scale is an issue in the orchard consider ordering red scale parasites – *Aphytis melinus* for southwest WA and *Aphytis lignanesis* for northern WA for release in October. Snails continue to be an issue in some orchards requiring ongoing baiting and possibly copper sprays.

*Source: Helen Ramsey, WA Department of Agriculture*