

season update

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QUEENSLAND – MAY 2006 REPORT

The **harvest** of Imperials, navels, grapefruit and lemons is continuing, harvest is also under way in Nova, Freemont and Sunburst varieties.

There has still been a severe lack of rain throughout the Central Burnett district, and **water levels** in the rivers remain critically low.

Red scale is under control in most blocks, while pack outs from known troublesome blocks have generally been good.

Jassids have been less of an issue this season due to the dry conditions. However, the occasional block of Imperials has required an extra treatment for low-level populations of jassids causing some cell break down.

Rust mite levels are still low throughout the district.

However, there are a number blocks with high populations of **Oriental Spider Mite**, which have required a treatment. In several other blocks, a low population of spider mite has been observed for some time without the need for treatment at this stage.

Fruit Fly control is very good now, especially with the onset of cooler weather. Most trap counts have been registering zero. Orchardists should still maintain baiting for fruit fly once a week as daytime temperatures are still high and there is a lot of susceptible fruit present.

Citrus thrip has become an issue in some blocks of lemons with an out of season flowering. Any of these blocks with an economically viable crop will require a treatment to protect the young fruit.

Emperor Brown Spot (EBS) levels have been low due to the dry conditions. Continued monitoring will be required, as an increase in dew and fogs during winter may increase levels of EBS infection.

Black Spot continues to be expressed as more fruit and varieties ripen. It has become a major issue at packing, from what has been a difficult season for the control of the disease.

Source: Dan Papacek, Bugs for Bugs