

season update

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA – MAY 2006 REPORT

Climate

Cool temperatures early in the month were replaced by un-seasonally warm weather mid month. Rainfall is well below the monthly average in all areas.

Phenology

Colour break and development is earlier this year due to the cooler temperatures experienced last month and early this month. Early indications are that internal maturity is behind previous years.

Harvest

Harvest of red flesh grapefruit continued in Kununurra and has begun in Carnarvon. Lemon harvest continues and harvest of Imperial mandarins and early navel varieties should commence towards the end of the month. Maturity test fruit before harvest to ensure the minimum standards are met (mandarins and navels) 80 Brix and 8:1 sugar:acid.

Management

Now is the time to bait for snails before winter rains set in. Keep an eye out for mealybug and aphids and treat if required. Continue with fruit fly monitoring and baiting. Note any old infestations of scale and plan your control measures for next season. Monitor water requirements closely to ensure trees are not over irrigated. Apply GA sprays on imperials for watermark at $\frac{3}{4}$ colour and grapefruit and stop drop sprays as required.

Source: Helen Ramsey, WA Department of Agriculture