



Queensland Fruit Fly Baiting Program Update

The Department of Primary Industries Victoria has announced that the following areas have been reinstated for domestic market access only.

- Karadoc on 7/12/2011
- Boundary Bend West on 10/12/2011
- Cardross on 16/12/2011
- Narrung on 18/12/2011
- Beverford South on 22/12/2011
- Nyah on 23/12/2011
- Piangil on 23/12/2011
- Woorinen on 23/12/2011
- Nangiloc on 23/12/2011

All citrus growers inside the 1500m radius of a Queensland fruit fly outbreak have now had the first allocation of the chemical 'naturalure' to allow them to treat their property.

The second allocation has been arranged for pick up on the following dates:

Tuesday 17 January – Nangiloc/Iraak growers – Groves Engineering from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Wednesday 18 January – Mildura, Merbein, Yelta, Nichols Point, Cardross and Gol Gol growers – MVCB Office from 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Wednesday 19 January – Ellerslie growers – Ellerslie Fire Station from 2:00pm to 4:00pm

We remind growers of the importance to treat their property. Growers are required by Victorian and NSW law to undertake eradication treatments if their property is within the defined area.

Those growers inside the 1500 metre radius of an outbreak epicentre which has been declared closed are no longer required by law to apply bait spray. The Board has provided free chemical to treat for QFF and we would urge growers affected to consider the merits of continuing the bait spray until the completion of six weeks. We are in a holiday destination which continues to see a large influx of visitors to the region, many of whom will have travelled through other QFF infested regions and may unintentionally transport QFF with them.

Summer Copper Application to Combat Fungal Infections

Citrus leaves (spring or summer flushes) are predominantly infected by Septoria Spot during autumn and early winter. However, if prolonged periods of moisture resulting from continuous rains, fogs or dews occur in January or February, it is

possible Septoria Spot infections will occur in summer. Septoria spot spores are dispersed onto healthy leaves and fruit by splashing water. Spores can germinate and cause latent infections which do not result in symptoms for up to six months after infection.

It is possible for citrus leaves and fruit to become infected with Greasy Spot and/or Septoria Spot during the expected period of wet weather this month. Therefore, growers will need to apply a copper spray to ensure that levels of Septoria Spot infection on fruit rinds are low and the external quality and appearance of the fruit is optimal. Recognising, of course, that accentuation of blemish and injury that can be caused if copper is applied during heat. This advice should be heeded especially for fruit destined for Korea.

GA Reminder

Growers are reminded that time is running out to apply GA sprays to reduce Albedo breakdown and improve fruit quality. Application of GA helps to produce a firmer rind and enhances the outturn quality of Navels shipped to markets such as the USA. Given some poor outturns during the 2010 USA program, growers are strongly encouraged to consider application of GA.

Sprays between 10 and 20ppm with a buffer are recommended depending on the harvest strategy and orchard history. For further advice contact your packer, chemical reseller, horticultural advisor and/or the Citrus Growing Manual.

Crop Forecasting

Growers are reminded to be mindful of MVCB staff moving across designated crop forecasting sites throughout the region. Activity will commence in late December and early January with the first stage of tagging and measuring fruit size and density completed by the end of January 2012. A preliminary crop forecast will be available in late February.

Annual Grower Registration Forms

Growers are reminded to return their annual grower registration form, update planting statistics and tree removal form URGENTLY to the MVCB office. It is vital that statistics be compiled on tree removals to ensure the accuracy of next year's crop forecast, as well as any other changes such as plantings or sale of property. Individual information will be treated as confidential and will only be used in aggregated form. Should you have any queries please contact the Board's office on (03) 5051 0500.