On-Farm Field Trials Farm Walk

The On-Farm Field Trials are a collaborative project conducted by NSW Department of Primary Industries citrus extension officer, Steven Falivene, NSW DPI Research Officer Karen Connolly and Murray Valley Citrus Board IDO, Mary Cannard and funded by MVCB levies with matching funding from Horticulture Australia. Farm walks to inspect the trials, listen to grower discussion and view preliminary results have been extremely popular with Murray Valley citrus growers.

The next farm walk will be held on Wednesday 4th April, at NSW DPI Research Station and will begin at 8:30am with a BBQ breakfast. The trials to be viewed are:

- Michael Keenan – Brotomax®/BranchIt® & Kaolin clay to increase growth of young trees
- NSW DPI Dareton – Summer Urea spray for fruit size, Kaolin clay tree growth and sunburn

To register your intent to attend the farm walk please ring the Board's office on (03) 5051 0500 or email mary@mvcitrus.org.au Registrations are essential for catering purposes.

Crop Monitors Training Course

Anyone wishing to be trained as a Registered Crop Monitor Officers to conduct infield China, Korea and Thailand Work Plan Inspections in accordance with the Export to China, Korea and Thailand Work Plan, are urged to attend this **one and only training course.**

The course will be held on Wednesday 28th March, starting at 9:00an at the MVCB's office in Pine Avenue, Mildura.

This course is a necessity if you intend to carry out field inspections for quarantinable pests, diseases and orchard hygiene practices for access to China, Korea and Thailand.

NOTE: AQIS has changed the rules and now allow Crop Monitor Officers to inspect properties they own.

Crop Protection Officers that attended the 2011 course **are not required** to attend.

Cost of the course is funded by NSW Industry and Investment. A certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the course.

For further details please contact: MVCB IDO, Mary Cannard on 0427 211 890 **Email:** mary@mvcitrus.org.au

Qfly Detections for Week Ending 16 March

Area	#Qfly	Action
Boundary Bend	Larvae in Pear	Extends Outbreak
Cabarita North	Larvae in Stone fruit	Extends Outbreak
Ellerslie	1	No Action
Murrabit	1	Extends Outbreak
Murrabit East	1	Supplementary Traps
Euston	1	No Action
Trentham Cliffs	1	No Action
Tol Tol	3	Extends Outbreak
Colignan	1	No Action
Buronga	2	Extends Outbreak

Supply of Naturalure Continues in the War on Qfly

The Board is continuing to supply Naturalure to Murray Valley citrus growers who are within 1500m of a QFly epicentre.

The supply of Naturlure to these citrus growers has reduced the number of properties affected by Qfly outbreaks from 122 growers over 34 outbreak sites to 41 growers over 14 sites. There are however eight other outbreak sites within the Pest Free Area, but no citrus growers are within these areas. To date the Board has funded and distributed over 10,000 litres of chemical to Qfly affected growers.

The MVCB is very much aware of the regional implications of Qfly outbreaks in both our export and domestic markets and is still working diligently towards achieving Pest Free Area status again.

Board Advocates for Hail Affected Growers

After the severe hail storm that hit Colignan growers in late September 2011, MVCB wrote to the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Mr Peter Walsh, to request financial assistance for growers who suffered considerable crop losses.

Unfortunately Mr Walsh declined our requested stating, 'Hail is a widely known business risk, which horticulture growers should be taking into account in their normal business planning and risk management procedures'.

Diary Dates:
28 March – Crop Monitor Officer Training Course, 9:00am, MVCB Boardroom, 58 Pine Av, Mildura
4 April – On-Farm Field Trials Farm Walk & BBQ Breakfast, 8:30am, NSW DPI, Silver City H'way, Dareton