



## Promising Chemical Alternative for Citrus Gall Wasp Control

MVCB grower levies are funding a search for chemical alternatives to manage the incursion of Citrus Gall Wasp (CGW) in the Sunraysia district.

CGW populations in Queensland and coastal NSW are kept below damaging levels by its natural enemies, in particular two parasitic wasp species. MVCB funded the release of millions of these parasitic wasp species as a long term management option for CGW. However, these natural enemies are at their early establishment stage and while numbers are increasing they are not high enough to effectively control severe infestations of CGW. Currently methidathion is the only chemical registered and it does not always provide satisfactory control of CGW.

Dr Jianhua Mo from NSW DPI is trialling alternative chemical options for citrus growers in the Murray Valley. Confidor Guard, petroleum spray oil (PSO) and an unregistered product (Product X) are being tested.

Results from the 2010/11 trial have shown that a single application of Confidor Guard applied as a soil drench in late October reduced the number of large galls in May the following year by about 60%. Similar reductions were achieved by three applications of PSO. However, Supracide and Product X failed to provide significant control of CGW.

Confidor Guard has a broad spectrum of activity which makes it toxic to CGW parasites, so it is best used where the parasitic wasps are absent. PSO only repels adult CGW from laying eggs in citrus shoots and has no direct adverse effects of parasitic wasps. Product X has shown some efficacy against CGW in a separate trial. Its unsatisfactory performance in this study may have been due to application timing.

To confirm the performance of the test chemicals, another trial has been started and data from this trial will be collected in May 2012. Full results will be published when the trial is completed.

This project is funded by HAL using voluntary contributions from MVCB levies with matched funds from the Federal Government.

## Alternatives to Dimethoate and Fenthion

The fruit fly treatments Dimethoate and Fenthion are currently under review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and it is anticipated that both chemicals be banned for use in Australia.

AUSVEG will be undertaking a series of seminars as part of a road show to educate growers and suppliers on alternatives to Dimethoate and Fenthion, including

methyl bromide fumigation, cold disinfestation, baiting and trapping, irradiation and a systems approach. Leading scientists will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these alternative treatments.

Following the presentations, growers will have the opportunity to speak directly with the presenters informally over complimentary refreshments and finger food.

When: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012, 6:00pm

Where: Mildura Grand Hotel, Seventh St, Mildura

For more information and to RSVP phone AUSVEG on (03) 9822 0388.

## Qfly Detections for Week Ending 16 March

Area	#Qfly	Action
Tol Tol	2	Extends Outbreak
Narrung	2	Supplementary Traps
Kenley	3	Extends outbreak
Beverford Sth	Larvae in fruit	New Outbreak
Cabarita North	Larvae in fruit	Extends Outbreak
Woorien	1	No Action
Buronga	2	Extends Outbreak
Gol Gol	1	Extends Outbreak
Nyah	1	No Action
Narrung West	1	No Action
Euston	1	Supplementary traps and larvae search
Boundary Bend Township	1	Extends Outbreak
Boundary Bend	67	Extends Outbreak

## NSW and Victoria Suspend of Temporary Water Trades

NSW Water has announced the suspension of water allocation trade from the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Rivers into South Australia from 1 April to 30 June 2012.

Suspension of trade was necessary to minimise a reduction in water availability for NSW licensed general security water users in the coming 2012/12 season.

Victoria has also suspended trade from NSW to Victoria to protect next season's allocations to Victorian water entitlement holders.

### Diary Dates:

**4 April** – On-Farm Field Trials Farm Walk & BBQ Breakfast, 8:30am, NSW DPI, Silver City H'way, Dareton

**12 April** – Demethoate/Fenthion Alternatives, 6:00pm, Mildura Grand Hotel, Seventh St, Mildura