



## Copper CttGroup in February

MVCB will be holding a CttGroup on 24<sup>th</sup> February starting at 8:30am to discuss the use of copper for disease control and copper application technology. Hamish Turner from Melpat International Pty Ltd will be presenting information on the range of copper based formulations. Topics to be discussed are:

- Application/Water Volumes – use of a range of water volumes and at what point run-off is achieved.
- Copper Based Formulations – How does this chemical work, what are the differences between one type and the other, and, which formulation to use in the different seasons, ie wet verses dry.
- Compatibilities of copper formulations with oils
- Sulphur – how this product works and the influence of temperature.

Date: 24 February 2012

Time: 8:30am

Place: MVCB Board Room, 58 Pine Ave, Mildura

Registration would be appreciated. Contact the Board's office on 03 50512 0500 to register.

## Qfly Outbreaks at Kenley, Goodnight North and Barham East.

Three new Fruit Fly outbreaks at Kenley, Goodnight North and Barham East have been declared. A 15 km restricted area is in place which affects the movement of fruit throughout Victoria and other sensitive areas including Western Australia, South Australia and parts of New South Wales.

Host fruit (including citrus) must be treated before leaving the 15 km restricted area. Plant Standards Officers can accredit growers/packers to use pre-harvest treatments, and to issue relevant certification, under a number of arrangements.

For further information regarding movement and treatment requirements contact Vic DPI on (03) 5051 4618. For current Qfly outbreaks and further information about Qfly visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/qff](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/qff)

## Naturalure Collection to Continue Qfly Treatments

MVCB has been proactive in making free chemical available to growers that are within 1500m of a declared Queensland Fruit Fly outbreak. All growers who are within the 1500m of an outbreak epicentre have been notified in writing by the Board.

The second lot of chemical is now available for collection for growers in the Mildura, Merbein, Yelta, Nichols Point, Cardross and Gol Gol outbreak areas.

**Growers are reminded that it is a legal requirement to treat their property with the supplied chemical if their orchard is within the 1500m radius of an outbreak epicentre. DPI compliance officers will be visiting affected growers to ensure the chemical has been applied.**

Eradicating Qfly within the Sunraysia Pest Free Area is an important factor in maintaining market access for Murray Valley citrus products in Qfly sensitive domestic and export markets.

## Texas Eradicate Mexican Fruit Fly

For the first time since 1927, Texas and the United States have been declared free of the citrus-destroying Mexican fruit fly following four years of successful eradication efforts by the Texas Department of Agriculture and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is a world-renowned powerhouse of quality citrus production that contributes \$140 million to the overall state economy." Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Todd Staples said. 'After four years of diligence between Texas citrus producers and our agencies, an 84-year-old problem has been eliminated from Texas and the United States. The announcement that Texas and the nation are now free of the Mexican fruit fly is a milestone that holds great promise for the future prosperity of our citrus industry and economy. It also serves as a testament to the powerful partnerships that made this victory possible.'

Primary eradication tactics include surveillance; bait sprays and Sterile Insect Techniques, which will continue to be utilised to create a long-term functional barrier to keep the area free of the devastating Mexfly.

## MVCB Crop Forecasting

Data collection has commenced to enable the Board to provide growers with a 2012/13 crop forecast. MVCB staff, Tony Bothroyd and Mary Cannard have been busy counting densities and tagging and measuring fruit across the district. Fruit sizing will continue in the following months and this data will be used in conjunction with the Board's historical data to provide the most accurate crop forecast possible in early April. This will assist the Murray Valley Citrus industry to market the crop in the most effective manner to maximise grower returns.

Plantings data collected annually by the Board also plays a critical role in enabling the Board to provide the most accurate information possible to Murray Valley growers.

The information collected by the Board is used to compile the national crop forecast and national plantings database.