



NSW Government Finalised New Board

On Friday 27 July, NSW State Government finalised the regulations for the Agricultural Industry Services Amendment (Murray Valley Citrus Board Industry Development Order) Regulation 2012. This means that the NSW State Government have completed their requirements to renew the Board for a further four years.

Director and Chairman appointments will be announced by the Victorian Agriculture Minister, Peter Walsh shortly. The new Board will convene for their first meeting over the coming weeks.

The MVCB staff would like to thank the outgoing Board members for their hard work, diligence and support over the last four years.

Report on Crop Regulation and Winter Yellows Cirtgroup

Forty citrus growers turned up at a recent Cirtgroup held on Sam Cross' Curlwaa farm for a round table discussion of regulating next year's crop load and to listen to Dr Michael Treeby's talk on Winter Yellows.

Last season's heavy crop followed by this season's average to above average crop has left the industry thinking about balancing next season's crop. All agreed that doing nothing may reduce grower returns next season.

- Each patch has to be assessed individually
- Act before flowering to have the best chance of balancing next season's crop load
- A light crop this season = a chance of a large crop of small fruit next season
 - Apply GA₃ (Ralex) on patches on which you expect to get a large crop
 - Avoid staining from GA₃ by spraying on a day where the spray can dry before nightfall
 - Get advice from your chemical reseller before using GA₃ on late navels
- A heavy crop this season = a chance of a small crop of large fruit next season
 - Leaf nitrogen levels may be low due to a heavy crop load, therefore reducing flower numbers
 - Increase flowering by using a low biuret Urea spray in the next few weeks

Causes and Symptoms of Winter Yellows:

- Winter Yellows are common in years when late autumn flushes are prevalent
- Foliage turns yellow at the onset of cold weather; can affect the whole tree or just the late flush
- Environmental triggers are good summer and early autumn rain and sudden cold snaps or series of cold snaps in autumn.
- Application of nitrogen in autumn may exacerbate the symptoms
- External tree symptom include fully functional leaves turning yellow and may drop; whole tree, single branches or just late flush may be affected; some root death possible
- Internal symptoms include increased levels of starch and decreased levels of calcium in leaves along with low levels of carbohydrates in the roots

Curative Action:

- Avoid late flushes
- Don't remove all fruit off young trees during Summer/Autumn
- Don't add nitrogen to trees with yellows
- Ensure root growth is unimpeded following spring shoot flush
- If extensive root death and defoliation is evident consider tree replacement

Thanks to Dr. Michael Treeby, Steve Falivene, Karen Connolly, Tony Bothroyd, Sam Cross and Justin Kassulke who all helped to make the day a success.

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee

After the completion of significant export reform initiatives, The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is establishing an industry consultative committee to act as a consultative group between DAFF and industry. This committee will replace the former AQIS Horticulture Export Consultative Committee. Therefore, they are seeking expressions of interest for membership of a DAFF consultative committee to represent stakeholders involved in the export of horticultural products.

The Committee will be the primary consultation body for issues relating to the export inspection and certification of horticultural products. Its scope will be limited to:

- Work with the department to explore and implement efficient service delivery options;
- Providing input on cost recovery options and finance matters specifically fees and charges and predicted tonnages for export;
- Discussing export inspection and certification issues affecting industry and solutions to address these issues;
- Discussing the performance of the DAFF Horticulture Exports Program; and
- Communicating outcomes of the committee's work to relevant export industry stakeholders.

Expressions of interest for membership to the committee are sought from suitable individuals representing a commodity organisation or broad industry stakeholders. An individual's expression of interest must be endorsed by a stakeholder organisation.

For further information please contact the Horticulture Export Program on 02 6272 3233 or email HorticultureExportsProgramACT@daff.gov.au

Qfly Detections and Update

Due to the continuing cold weather the number of Qfly detections throughout the Sunraysia district is still minimal. However, in a number of weeks warmer weather will be upon us and Qfly numbers will be increasing again. Only one Qfly was detected this week at Barham North East.

Naturalure Container Collection

To reduce the cost of supplying Naturalure to citrus growers this season, growers are asked to return empty Naturalure containers to the Board. If you have empty Naturalure containers please ring the Board's office on 03 5051 0500 or Tony Bothroyd on 0407 325934 and collection will be arranged.