

Murray Valley Citrus Board Newsletter



4 September 2012

Visiting USA Professor To Give Citrus Greening Presentation in Mildura



MVCB is delighted to host Associate Professor, Tim Spann, a visiting citrus researcher from Florida University's Citrus Research and Education Centre, who is visiting our district next week. Dr. Spann's research examines horticultural practices for improved management of

citrus greening disease and its pest vectors and citrus canker as well as new cultivar management practices and improved production systems.

Dr. Spann will be able to present his latest research findings at a meeting to be held on Thursday 13th September, starting at 9:00am in the MVCB Boardroom, 58 Pine Avenue, Mildura.

All growers are encouraged to attend and learn firsthand about the effects citrus greening has had on the Florida citrus industry and the steps they have taken to combat this destructive disease.

Qfly Update

The Board has distributed the chemical Naturalure to growers within 1.5km radius of Qfly outbreak epicentres and held meetings for growers to learn about the best application method and timing.

We have been advised by Victorian DPI that growers will need to start applying the chemical weekly from 7th September. If you are unsure about any of the application details or require more information please don't hesitate to ring the Board's office on (03) 5051 0504 or ring Mary Cannard on 0427 211890.

There have been no Qfly detections in the Sunraysia Pest Free Area in the last week. However, as discussed at the recent Qfly meetings it is important to apply the bait sprays to eradicate any early season Qfly which may emerge in the coming weeks as the weather warms up.

Integrated Pest Management

Spring is nearly upon us and with the advent of warmer weather insects pests will again start to increase in numbers. Insect management is an important consideration when producing quality fruit. Failure to manage pests will not only cause quality problems in the current crop but may have severe long term effects. Once where chemical sprays may have been applied at the first sight of a pest, now monitoring the pest and its natural enemies leads to the best choice of management strategy. Export markets are very strict about chemical residues and the presence of insects such as light brown apple moth. To meet these standards and have your fruit accepted for export, you need to consider using an integrated approach to pest control.

In part, the development of integrated pest management (IPM) is a response to the failure of many chemical pesticides to provide long-term solutions to pest problems. Successful integrated pest management usually has several key components. Knowledge - understanding the biology and ecology of the pest, and the crop is essential. Monitoring - growers can use relatively simple techniques to keep track of what pests are where. Monitoring on a broader scale can also be used to predict pest outbreaks and forewarn growers to take action. Economic Threshold - this takes into account the revenue losses resulting from pest damage and the costs of treatment to prevent the damage. Below the economic threshold, the presence of the pest is tolerated. Only when pest numbers increase above the threshold does the grower take action.

IPM aims to maximize the use of biological control and uses other measures in a supportive rather than disruptive role. This especially applies to chemicals which should not be used on a 'calendar' basis but strictly when needed as defined by systematic pest monitoring. The aim is to produce quality fruit at minimal cost by managing pests using various control measures.

Monitoring of pests and their natural enemies in the orchard is a vital component of IPM. This may be achieved using a commercial pest scout or by the orchard manager. Monitoring may show that the pest is not widespread throughout the orchard, or pest levels are not high enough to warrant control. Blocks of trees (of similar age and variety) should be assessed fortnightly from flowering to harvest. Trees should be examined randomly throughout the block, looking at four locations around each tree and inspecting 20 trees per hectare. Young trees

may need to be more closely monitored than established trees.

Monitoring pests involves, recognising and identifying the problem pest and noting the current stage of its life cycle. Look at fruit, leaves, stems, flowers and new growth for evidence of - young insect stages, crawlers or small larvae; insects under the calyx; damage to fruit; webbing of light brown apple moth between fruits, in flowers or fruitlets and on the leaves; honeydew from scales and mealybugs; aphids, flatids; galls; predators - ladybeetles, lacewings and egg masses.

Damage can be caused at all stages of fruit development. Examine the fruit for signs of sooty mould, fruit scarring, ringing at the stem end and holes in the surface of the fruit. Record the pests and/or natural enemy levels to build a profile of each block and-or cultivar. Note any problems such as dust, ants or tree health and any other problems that should be followed up at a later date.

Your Citrus Growing Manual has more information on managing citrus pests including maximum pest levels and/or refer to the book Citrus Pests and their Natural Enemies for pest identification and management options. Both can be purchased from the Boards office.

MVCB Annual Report



MVCB's Annual report has now been finalised and is available to all growers and industry stakeholders upon request. The Board wishes to thank Kristi

Goldup for her exceptional photography skills as Kristi supplied to photograph on the front cover on the report. If you require a copy of the Annual Report please ring the Board's office on (03)5051 0500.

MVCB Budget and Operational Plan Voting Papers

Voting papers for the MVCB Budget and Operational Plan for 2012/2013 should now have been received by eligible growers. Growers can vote in one of three ways.

- In person –By voting at a meeting in Mildura at the MVCB office on 11/9/2012 at 3.00 pm.
- Nominate another eligible levy paying grower – attending the Mildura meeting as a proxy and giving that person your original ballot paper to vote on your behalf; or
- Nominate the Chairman – as your Proxy, who will vote on your behalf in accordance with the Board's recommendations

Ensure your vote is counted - if you know you will not be able to attend the voting meeting complete your proxy form and intentions and return to the Board ASAP.

Diary Dates

**MVCB Vote Meeting, Tuesday 11th September
3.00pm at MVCB Board Room, 58 Pine Ave Mildura**

**Citrus Greening Presentation, Thursday 13th
September, 9:00am, MVCB Boardroom, 58 Pine
Ave, Mildura**