



# MURRAY VALLEY CITRUS BOARD WEEKLY NEWS

[www.mvcitrus.org.au](http://www.mvcitrus.org.au)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**MVCB Provides Value For Money to Citrus Growers**  
Projects managed by your citrus Board have delivered financial benefits to growers estimated at \$49.4 million over the past four years. Over the same period your citrus Board received statutory levies of \$2.6 million. A return on your investment of 9:1.

Your Board will continue to look after the best interests of citrus growers in the Murray Valley region:

- During the drought your Board enabled NSW growers with permanent planting to access critical supply of water so they could maintain their crops. **Estimated value: \$11.5 million (over two years);**
- Your Board negotiated Japan's acceptance of the Pest Free Area winter window for seasonal access into Japan. **Estimated value: \$1.2 million (annual average);**
- Your Board has been the lead agency in bringing state and federal government water agencies to Mildura, providing growers with the opportunity to share their concerns with policy makers.

Your Board plays a critical role in achieving and maintaining market access through biosecurity and a Pest Free Area.

- Activities initiated by your Board to achieve and maintain a PFA saves local growers approximately **\$10 million per year;**
- In 2011-12 your Board provided free chemical to 132 citrus growers in the Murray Valley to eradicate fruit fly outbreaks: **saving growers approximately \$200,000;**
- Your Board has advocated for and gained support from the Victorian Government to establish a permanent road block site to prevent fruit fly from entering the Murray Valley;
- The plantings database maintained by your Board enables growers to be identified immediately and respond to market access issues in a timely fashion.

Your Board will help to ensure your future profitability by funding activities that are regionally relevant:

- Your Board secured funding for research into post-harvest disinfestations and orchard control regimes to stop Fullers Rose Weevil entering citrus trees, opening up markets in Thailand and Korea. **Estimated value \$14 Million**
- Water use efficiency research and on-farm trials have given growers the opportunity to improve their water use efficiency and on-farm profitability
- Your Board has funded and distributed Citrus Gall Wasp Parasites by the hundreds of thousand on farm,

saving growers time and money in treatments. **Estimated saving to growers: \$2.9 million;**

- Your Board keeps growers abreast of best practice information with a regional focus.

Your Board keeps decisions on how your money is spent in your hands

- Your Board consults annually with growers on which research and development projects they would like funded, ensuring that projects are regionally relevant.
- Your Board's budget must be approved by growers, ensuring that your money is spent on issues and activities that are important to you.

**Growers are reminded that voting to remake the Board for another four year term is compulsory.**

To be counted, your vote will need to be posted in time to reach the Electoral commission in Melbourne by 4pm 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

### How to Vote:

**A YES vote is to continue the Board for a four year term.**

**A NO vote will see the Citrus Board cease all operations on June 30, 2012.**

All instructions are detailed on your ballot paper, including the requirement to sign the declaration on the reply paid envelope.

### Qfly Reinstatements & Detections for Week Ending 1 June

Pooncarie has been declared free of fruit fly and has been reinstated to area freedom for the domestic market.

Area	# Qfly	Action
Beverford	1	Extends Outbreak
Boundary Bend	1	Extends Outbreak

The reduction in Qfly fly numbers being trapped in the Sunraysia PFA is very pleasing, especially when compared to the large number of Qfly still being trapped around Shepparton and Cobram. MVCB would like to thank both NSW and Victorian DPIs and citrus growers for their combined effort to reduce the Qfly population in the Murray Valley. Due to the onset of colder weather, the Board will stop supplying Naturalure bait sprays to citrus growers.

### Diary Dates:

**6 June** – Smart Phone Use in Horticulture, 3:00pm, MVCB Boardroom, 58 Pine Av, Mildura