



# MVCB Weekly News

9 October, 2012

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

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## **Qfly Update**

Qfly detections are still low in the Sunraysia Pest Free Area (PFA) with only three Qfly being found within the Goodnight North outbreak.

The Goodnight district is under pressure from a Qfly infestation in the Balranald area. Balranald is outside the Sunraysia PFA and therefore people in the Goodnight district are urged to not bring fruit and vegetables grown in home gardens in the Balranald shire into the Sunraysia PFA.

MVCB has continued to supply bait spray chemical to growers within 1500m of outbreak epicentres and encourages these growers to apply bait sprays to control any Qfly emerging after the winter months.

## **Industry and growers meet with Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food Security.**

Industry representatives and growers met with John Cobb, Shadow Federal Minister for Agriculture on Thursday October 4 to raise concerns. Issues discussed included the increased fees being charged by AQIS for business registration and inspection, now that AQIS has moved to a full cost recovery model. Growers and packers detailed to Mr Cobb how the increased costs are impacting on their returns in what was already a very difficult season financially.

Growers raised concerns centered around the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the amendments to the Water Act before parliament, and whilst the Ministers portfolio does not cover water he noted growers concerns and will discuss them with the relevant shadow Minister. Truth in labelling and the large amounts of imported frozen juice concentrate also came in for scrutiny in view of the large amount of fruit that is going to stock feed this season rather than being used for human consumption.

## **MVCB meets with DPI over management of Queensland fruit fly (Qff) in the Greater Sunraysia pest Free Area (PFA).**

Friday October 5 industry groups met in Melbourne with department representatives to progress arrangements around the maintenance of the Sunraysia PFA for the remainder of 2012 and the first six months of 2013. Consensus was achieved around the importance of maintaining the PFA and a commitment to work together to achieve a successful outcome in the eradication of the remaining outbreaks that have overwintered.

Representatives from Horticulture Australia have agreed to reallocate funding from the PFA project towards eradication measures. Currently department staff are moving through the PFA removing the 13,000 bait blocks that have been in place over winter. It is necessary to remove these blocks to maintain the validity of the trapping data. Once the blocks have been removed it requires a further 12 weeks before trapping data can be relied upon to declare an outbreak over.

## **Bus To National Conference In Leeton NSW 21– 24 October.**

Expressions of interest are being sought from growers who like to travel by bus to this year's National conference to be held in Leeton, NSW from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

The bus will leave the Riverland on the morning of Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October and travel via Mildura picking up growers along the way. The bus would be expected to leave the Sunraysia approximately lunch time on the Sunday. The bus will return on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Travel on the bus will be subsidized if enough interest is shown. Exact cost is dependent on

## Diary Dates:

**Citrus Gall Wasp Workshop:**  
Wednesday 10  
October, Smyth's  
Property, Coomealla

**Copper Formulations:**  
Saturday 13  
October, MVCB  
Boardroom

**National Citrus Conference:** 21 to  
23 October, Leeton  
Soldiers Club, Leeton

**International Citrus Congress:** 19 to 23  
November, Valencia  
Spain

numbers. Growers will still be responsible for their own Accommodation, Meals and registration costs.

Expressions of interest for travelling on a bus will be taken up until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Growers who know they may wish to use this service should reply ASAP.

Contact Mary Cannard on (03) 5051 0504 or email [mary@mvcitrus.org.au](mailto:mary@mvcitrus.org.au) to register your interest to travel to Leeton on the bus.

### **Copper CITTgroup Reminder**

Hamish Turner from Melpat International will be in Mildura on Saturday, 13 October with a technical update on Copper Based Formulations, ie

- 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.
- Red Copper formulations
- Compatibilities of copper formulations with oils
- Sulphur – how this product works and the influence of temperature.

Organic growers are encouraged to attend this CITTgroup as Hamish now has organic certification for a number of his products.

This CITTgroup will be held at MVCB's Boardroom, 58 Pine Av, Mildura starting at 9:00am, morning tea will be provided.

To register for this CITTgroup please ring the Board's office on (03) 5051 0500.

### **Israeli Soil Expert Talks Fertigation in Mildura**

Leading soil science expert Dr Avner Silber, will be in Mildura on Thursday October 11 to talk on the latest global fertigation techniques and control. Dr Silber works with the Agricultural Research Organisation at the Volcani Centre in Israel and is being hosted by the Haifa Group.

Where: Mercure Hotel, Eight Street, Mildura

When: Thursday October 11, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Tim Vines from Netafim will also be on the agenda to discuss injection and control methods. Growers wishing to attend these talk will need to register by phoning Trevor Dennis on 0400 119 852 or email [trevor.dennis@haifa-group.com](mailto:trevor.dennis@haifa-group.com)

### **CGW and FRW Workshop Reminder**

Growers interested in exporting to Thailand, Korea and China should be attending Wednesday's CITTgroup at Smyth's property, Reserve Road East, Holland's Lake starting at 8:30am for a BBQ breakfast. Citrus Australia's Market Development Manager, Andrew Harty, will be speaking on the export potential of these markets and Steve Falivene will be talking on implementing orchard protocols to ensure fruit sent to these destinations is free of FRW.

Growers in the Coomealla district are also urged to attend as Dr Jiahua Mo will be presenting the latest data on new management options for Citrus Gall Wasp.