

MVCB Weekly News

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www.mvcitrus.org.au

Murray Valley Citrus Board

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International Citrus Congress – Valencia

Murray Valley Citrus Board's Industry Development Officer, Mary Cannard, has just arrived back in Mildura from a trip to Spain. She was in Spain to attend the International Citrus Congress in Valencia, as well as touring citrus growing regions within Spain. The congress is held every four years and attracts citrus scientists and researchers as well as citrus growers and other industry stakeholders from all over the world. The theme of the conference was citrus and health.

A full report from her trip will be available in the first Citrep magazine for 2013.

Ofly Update

Detections of Qfly within the Board's defined area are still low as evidenced by the samples received from Vic DPI last week. The Board encourages growers that have been supplied Naturalure to continue to use it.

Area	# Qfly	Action
Goodnight Nth	6	Extends Outbreak
Swan Hill	2	Extends Outbreak

Asian Citrus Psyllid found in California Citrus Groves

Commercial citrus growers in the San Joaquin Valley received devastating news in late November when the Asian citrus psyllid, an invasive pest that can spread Huanglongbing (HLB), the most serious citrus disease in the world, was found in a commercial citrus grove in San Joaquin Valley.

This is the second psyllid detected in the San Joaquin Valley. To date, HLB has only been detected in one backyard tree and one psyllid in the Hacienda Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles.

The recent discovery of the pest in Tulare County threatens the livelihood of thousands of Californian citrus industry workers and the \$1.8 billion in economic activity generated through growing commercial citrus in California.

State officials have declared quarantine areas to limit the movement of citrus and citrus trees in two areas within the San Joaquin Valley.

Annual Charges for Horticulture Registered Establishments

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is preparing billing arrangements for the 2012/13 annual charge for Horticulture Registered Establishments.

Tier 1 – basic markets (no additional declarations – these markets impose minimal import conditions and draw the least effort from the program management and administration deliverable.

Tier 1 registration fee will be \$2,844 and the rebate will be \$1,044.

Tier 2 – markets requiring additional declarations – these markets require certification against particular phytosanitary conditions or pest and disease freedom of horticulture export product. An additional level of effort is required from the program management and administration deliverable to ensure that the export system meets the requirements of these markets.

Tier 2 registration fee will be \$5,687 and the rebate will be \$3,877.

Tier 3 – protocol markets, these markets impose strict import conditions on horticulture products and draw the most amount of effort from the program management and administration deliverable.

Tier 3 registration fee will be \$8,530 and the rebate will be \$6,730.

Fullers' Rose Weevil (FRW) Management

FRW is a major quarantine pest to a number of key export markets. While the adult does not cause any economic damage to citrus, it can lay its eggs on citrus fruit which creates problems when exporting to sensitive markets.

FRW adults emerge from the soil mid-summer and commence ascending to vertical objects including trees in search of suitable sites to lay eggs. With the above in mind growers interested in exporting to markets such as China, Korea or Thailand should consider applying measures now to prevent the insect from accessing into the tree canopy.

Skirting of citrus trees and weed management to reduce access to citrus trees is a priority and also a requirement in most work plans agreed with AQIS. To completely prevent access to citrus tree canopies barriers should be applied to tree trunks. These can be in the form of registered insecticides sprayed around the circumference of the trunk approximately 10cm wide to prevent access. Such insecticide sprays should be applied to avoid wash from irrigation and repeated regularly enough to maintain their effectiveness.

Regular inspections of the orchard should be completed to ensure skirts are maintained and weeds removed. As the adults are flightless, management practices in specific orchards over several seasons will eventually assist in reducing populations to low levels. A grower's management guide to FRW is available on the Board's website www.mvcitrus.org.au