



# MVCB Weekly News

12 February, 2013

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

**Murray  
Valley  
Citrus  
Board**

**58 Pine Ave  
Mildura VIC  
3500**

**PO Box 1384  
Mildura VIC  
3502**

**Ph: 03 5051 0500**

**Fax: 03 5021 1905**

## **MVCB Chairman and CEO to Address Council Forum on Qfly**

MVCB chair John Tesoriero and CEO Hugh Flett will be presenting at the Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) forum on Thursday 14 February, 2013 on the Queensland Fruit Fly issues facing the Sunraysia area. It is critical to bring MRCC and other councils throughout the region up to speed on the importance of achieving and maintaining area freedom from Qfly. Citrus is only one of the horticulture industries impacted during times of outbreak. There are actions that the relevant councils can implement in their defined areas that can assist in maintaining area freedom, and we will be calling on council to support their constituents.

## **Qfly 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 table below sets out the number of Qfly adults and larvae found in the last week.

Area	# Qfly	Action
Buronga	1	Extends Outbreak
Kerang	6	Extends Outbreak
Tooleybuc Town	5	Extends Outbreak

The number of growers in the Board's defined area affected by fruit fly stands at 39. A total of 132 growers were affected at the start of the 2012 Navel season. This has greatly reduced over the last three months due to twelve outbreaks declared reinstated for area freedom. The Board would like to thank affected growers for their co-operation and support in applying chemical as requested.

There are currently ten Qfly outbreaks still operating in the Board's defined area. The Board is still supplying chemical to Buronga and Gol Gol growers and they are reminded to apply sprays weekly. The outbreaks in Narrung and Boundary Bend area are being controlled with killer pads.

Numerous Qflies are still being trapped in other outbreaks within the Sunraysia Pest Free Area but outside the Board's defined area.

Cabarita North is the next outbreak due for reinstatement in February, however if further flies are caught this date will be extended.

## **Tissue Sampling**

Now is the time to consider taking leaf samples for nutrient analysis across all citrus varieties; for this region it is done through the months of February and March.

Taking these samples is a very useful tool to either use as a basis to construct or evaluate a season fertiliser program which is usually conducted around the middle of the year. It is also useful to troubleshoot problems with growth and identify possible reasons for the poorer performing areas of the orchard.

Growers who are familiar with the process can take the samples themselves and send to a reputable laboratory for testing and analysis while those who are not, can employ the services of their local agronomist to take the samples, test and provide an interpretation of the results.

This tool becomes more reliable when taken over consecutive years, as common trends will appear in the results over time.

## Diary Dates:

### 20 February 2013

John Chavarria CITTgroup,  
4:00pm at MVCB  
Boardroom, 58 Pine Av,  
Mildura.

For more information contact the MVCB on (03) 5051 0500 or NSW DPI on (03) 5019 8400.

#### **High-tech Weed Detector to be Trialed in WA**

A machine that detects weeds on farms using a world-first triple laser beam system being developed in Western Australia will soon start field trials.

The Photonic Detection System differentiates between weeds and crops and will be used on broad acre and row farming.

Weed infestation costs Australian agriculture around \$4 billion a year and many weeds are becoming herbicide resistant.

John Rowe, who's developing the Photonic System in collaboration with Edith Cowan University, says the technology can be retro-fitted to boom sprays and other equipment and will be another addition to precision farming

"Many years ago, skeleton weed research was done with a crowd of guys, sat on the back of a trailer, chucking out bags of flour when they saw skeleton weed," he said.

"So it's taken the human eye into the modern age." (Source: ABC Rural 8 February 2013)

#### **Florida State Loses Citrus Canker Case**

The Florida State Department of Agriculture is liable for taking and destroying Lee County residents' healthy citrus trees in an attempt to eradicate citrus canker disease, and a jury trial will decide how much more compensation residents are entitled to, a 20th Circuit Court judge ruled today.

Judge Keith Kyle took just a week to weigh the arguments presented in a class-action lawsuit brought against the state on behalf of residents of 11,700 Lee County homes, claiming that the state cut down about 33,000 of their healthy trees in a failed effort to stop the disease's spread of citrus canker disease. The eradication program ran from August 2002 to January 2006.

Initially, the state had offered \$100 gift cards to Walmart in compensation for the first tree cut, followed by \$55 cheques for additional trees. The state issued about \$45 million in cheques and vouchers.

The Lee County plaintiffs argued that wasn't enough, and the judge agreed. "It is up to the jury to determine what compensation Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to recover as a result of the Department's destruction of their citrus trees from their residential yards," the ruling states.

No date for the jury trial has been set. Two previous lawsuits on behalf of homeowners in Palm Beach and Broward counties resulted in more than \$27 million in judgments. The agriculture department has refused to pay them. (Source: [www.newspress.com](http://www.newspress.com) 8 February 2013)

#### **Annual Grower Registration Forms**

Growers are reminded to return their annual grower registration form, update planting statistics and tree removal form URGENTLY to the MVCB office. It is vital that statistics be compiled on tree removals to ensure the accuracy of next year's crop forecast, as well as any other changes such as plantings or sale of property. Individual information will be treated as confidential and will only be used in aggregated form. Should you have any queries please contact the Board's office on (03) 5051 0500.