



MVCB Weekly News

26 February, 2013

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

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
Gol Gol North	1	No Action
Swan Hill	1	Extends Outbreak
Tooleybuc Town	Larvae in Nectarine	Extends Oubreak
Buronga	1	Extends Outbrek
Mildura	1	No Action

John Chavarria Cittgroup Report

International Citrus Consultant, John Chavarria, spoke to Murray Valley growers at a recent Cittgroup about global citrus trends. Below are some important points from his presentation.

Europe:

Seedless easy peelers are dominating the market with different sizes and quality required in different countries. Spain has an oversupply of navels and Nules clementine, with clementines returning \$300 AUD per metric tonne. Afourer or Nadorcotts returned the best money at \$800 AUD per metric tonne as the owners of this variety have limited the number of trees planted. The new mandarin Or, bred in Israel, is now being planted in Spain as the taste is preferred and it fills a gap in the market

USA:

Seedless easy peeler market is growing with Sun Pacific and Paramount Cuties the dominant brand. Navels are in oversupply and losing market share to mandarins. There is an undersupply of early mandarins (November to January) and a potential oversupply of Afourer and Tango as tree numbers are not limited. Sunkist has started to enter the seedless easy peeler market.

China, Korea and South East Asia:

Navels dominate this market with the best premium prices out of China and Korea. Hard mandarins such as Nova, Daisy and Murcotts are preferred with seedlessness not being critical. The 'grey channel' into China has been unstable this season and this may continue. Competitors – South Africa, Chile and Peru

Plantings of seedless easy peelers are increasing, with Afourer the most planted variety. Returns for easy peelers are good however they are having problems producing a seedless piece of fruit. Afourer plantings are limited in South Africa but unlimited in Chile and Peru. Chile and Peru are targeting the US market and South Africa targeting the European market.

Tree condition in the Murray Valley:

John saw tree condition here in the Murray Valley as good considering constraints growers were working under over a sustained period of time, i.e. water, poor returns. He stressed the need to focus on cost efficient tree health to get yield that pays the bills, as only trees in good condition deliver commercial yields with size. In particular providing a balanced N:P:K fertiliser program, managing crop loads and continual pruning.

MVCB would like to thank Alan Whyte and Mildura Fruit Company for their assistance in securing John as a guest speaker.

Diary Dates:

20 February 2013

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

Preliminary Crop Forecast

Based on January fruit density counts, fruit size and growth rate measurements taken during January and February it is estimated that this year's citrus crop will be 114,516 metric tonnes. Breakdown into citrus categories is given below:

Early Season Navels	17,068
Mid Season Navels	18,904
Late Season Navels	31,776
Valencias	28,175
Afourer	6,529
Other Mandarins	9,090
Grapefruit	1,519
Tangelo	1,459
Total	114,516

Flood Damage to Bugs for Bugs

Mundubbera based business, Bugs for Bugs, has been severely affected by the recent floods in the Burnett region. Bugs for Bugs is the main supplier of beneficial organisms for the Australian citrus industry. Dan Papacek, Director for Bugs for Bugs has confirmed they are still in business and are trying to recover as much as possible as quickly as they can.

Dan advises that Queensland fruit fly control products are still available as are other beneficial insects. Aphytis, which control red scale in citrus will also be available again soon.

MVCB encourages growers to support Dan and his team by continuing to purchase his products.

MVCB Strategic Planning

The Murray Valley Citrus Board met last week to prepare a draft Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2017. When the draft is completed it will be circulated to growers for comment and feedback prior to finalization. Once the plan is signed off it will then form the basis for preparing the new Operational Plan and budget for 2013-14.



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