

## **MEDIA RELEASE 17 / 04/ 12**

### **MURRAY VALLEY CITRUS BOARD**

#### **Bigger Fruit Size Will Help Grower Returns**

The Murray Valley Citrus Board [MVCB] advises that the 2012/13 season Navel crop is expected to be lighter but fruit size will be larger.

Based on fruit density counts, fruit size and growth rate measurements taken during January, February and March, this year's Navel crop is expected to be 84,200 tonnes a 6% decrease on last season's crop of 89,148 tonnes.

Murray Valley Citrus Board's Industry Development Officer, Mary Cannard says, 'While fruit densities are well down on last season, fruit size is larger, therefore the volume of fruit is not significantly less than last year. Fruit is approximately 5 to 6 mm larger than at the same time last year.' Approximately 75% of fruit is in the preferred sizes for class one export.

Pest damage on fruit is not substantial, however, we are seeing some Katydid and Thrip damage on rinds. We estimate that approximately 80% of the crop will be clean first class fruit,' Ms Cannard said.

Hugh Flett, Chief Executive of the Murray Valley Citrus Board said, '50% of the Murray Valley navel crop is usually exported, so growers were hit hard by the high Australian dollar last year. Unfortunately there has been no movement in the dollar, but the increase in fruit size this year will help increase returns to growers'.

#### Other Varieties:

The 2012/12 season will also see lighter Valencia (29,142 tonnes), Mandarin (12,905 tonnes) and Tangelo (1,676) crops. The grapefruit crop is expected to be heavier at 5100 tonnes.

#### For further information:

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