



MVCB Weekly News

www.mvcitrus.org.au

Murray Valley Citrus Board

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Qfly Cittgroup

Growers are reminded that MVCB will be holding a Qfly meeting on 11 September, starting at 3:00pm at the MVCB Boardroom. All growers and packers are urged to attend. Vic DEPI and NSW DPI Fruit Fly staff will be in attendance to give an update on current outbreaks and reinstatements, PFA eradication operations for the 2013/14 season and changes to the movement of fruit in Victoria.

MVCB does have enough stock of Naturalure left to distribute to MVCB growers within 1.5km of a Qfly outbreak. However, this will be the final distribution of chemical for citrus growers.

MVCB CEO Hugh Flett will also give an update on MVCB funding for Qfly activities in the 2013/14 season.

Please ring the Board's office on (03) 5051 0500 to register for this Cittgroup.

Wentworth Show

MVCB Industry Development Officer, Mary Cannard, Field Officer, Tony Bothroyd, Admin Officer Deb Scott, Board members John Tessoriero and Jan Denham were kept busy supplying fresh orange and Blood orange juice and granitas to the large crowds at the Wentworth Show on Saturday and Sunday 24 and 25 August..

Free fruit tasting was also very popular with show patrons sampling Blood oranges, Ruby grapefruit, Afourer mandarins, Tangelos, Lane and Cara Cara Navels. Again the most popular varieties were Cara Caras and Blood oranges.

The Board would like to thank Mildura Fruit Company, EJT and Curlwaa Fresh for providing produce for the weekend. The Board also wishes to thank the volunteers on the citrus stand for their valuable contribution to a very successful Citrus Board promotion.

Integrated Pest Management

Spring is nearly upon us and with the advent of warmer weather insects pests will again start to increase in numbers. Insect management is an important consideration when producing quality fruit. Failure to manage pests will not only cause quality problems in the current crop but may have severe long term effects. Once where chemical sprays may have been applied at the first sight of a pest, now monitoring the pest and its natural enemies leads to the best choice of management strategy.

Export markets are very strict about chemical residues and the presence of insects such as light brown apple moth. To meet these standards and have your fruit accepted for export, you need to consider using an integrated approach to pest control.

In part, the development of integrated pest management (IPM) is a response to the failure of many chemical pesticides to provide long-term solutions to pest problems.

Successful integrated pest management usually has several key components. Knowledge - understanding the biology and ecology of the pest, and the crop is essential. Monitoring - growers can use relatively simple techniques to keep track of what pests are where. Monitoring on a broader scale can also be used to predict pest outbreaks and forewarn growers to take action. Economic Threshold - this takes into account the revenue losses resulting from pest damage and the costs of treatment to prevent the damage. Below the economic threshold, the presence of the pest is tolerated. Only when pest numbers increase above the threshold does the grower take action.

IPM aims to maximize the use of biological control and uses other measures in a supportive rather than disruptive role. This especially applies to chemicals which should not be used on a 'calendar' basis but strictly when needed as defined by systematic pest monitoring. The aim is to produce quality fruit at minimal cost by managing pests using various control measures.

Monitoring of pests and their natural enemies in the orchard is a vital component of IPM. This may be achieved using a commercial pest scout or by the orchard manager. Monitoring may show that the pest is not widespread throughout the orchard, or pest levels are not high enough to warrant control. Blocks of trees (of similar age and variety) should be assessed fortnightly from flowering to harvest. Trees should be examined randomly throughout the block, looking at four locations around each tree and inspecting 20 trees per hectare. Young trees may need to be more closely monitored than established trees.

Monitoring pests involves, recognising and identifying the problem pest and noting the current stage of its life cycle. Look at fruit, leaves, stems, flowers and new growth for evidence of - young insect stages, crawlers or small larvae; insects under the calyx; damage to fruit; webbing of light brown apple moth between fruits, in flowers or fruitlets and on the leaves; honeydew from scales and mealybugs; aphids, flatids; galls; predators - ladybeetles, lacewings and egg masses.

Damage can be caused at all stages of fruit development. Examine the fruit for signs of sooty mould, fruit scarring, ringing at the stem end and holes in the surface of the fruit. Record the pests and/or natural enemy levels to build a profile of each block and-or cultivar. Note any problems such as dust, ants or tree health and any other problems that should be followed up at a later date.

Your Citrus Growing Manual has more information on managing citrus pests including maximum pest levels and/or refer to the book Citrus Pests and their Natural Enemies for pest identification and management options. Both can be purchased from the Boards office.