



MVCB Weekly News

10th Sept 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

Diary Dates:

11 September,
2:00pm, Grower
Meeting, MVCB
Boardroom, 58 Pine Av,
Mildura

11 September,
3:00pm, Qfly Meeting,
MVCB Boardroom, 58
Pine Av, Mildura

Grower Meeting

Growers are invited to a meeting at the Murray Valley Citrus Board (MVCB) next Wednesday, 11 September at 2 pm, to discuss the ramifications of the recent Supreme Court decision and the future of the Murray Valley Citrus Board. The Court's decision was that the Board did not have the power to impose its \$5-50 per tonne levy from 1 July 2012.

While the State Government is still giving consideration to an appeal, the Board, subject to grower input at the meeting, is minded to refund all levies paid on fruit sold since 1st July 2012, and preserve the Board's remaining assets as best it can, to be devoted to restoration of fruit fly free status of the Sunraysia Pest Free Area (PFA), to which the Board has already committed funds as part of the 3 year project co funded with Horticulture Australia Limited, and with substantial contribution from the Victorian State Government.

The Board regards the maintenance of the PFA as critical to the ongoing viability and profitability of the Murray Valley citrus industry.

The Board hopes you can attend this important meeting on 11th September at 2pm at the Board's office at 58 Pine Av, Mildura.

Following this meeting there will be a general meeting at 3pm on fruit fly outbreaks for growers in the Buronga, Gol Gol and Boundary Bend Townships. It is essential that growers within a 1.5km radius of a fruit fly outbreak attend to collect their allocation of chemical. Please note this will be the only chemical distributed by MVCB to growers for the 2013/14 season. MVCB will no longer be funding chemical for citrus growers as industry funds are now being directed into costs associated with operating the PFA.

All other growers are urged to attend to ensure they are up to date with the new procedures for the movement of fruit out of the Sunraysia PFA. Representatives from Vic DEPI will be on hand to advise growers of requirements.

Citrus Psyllid Found in Kern County, California

An Asian citrus psyllid was detected on private residential property in Wasco Friday, the first sighting in Kern County. It wasn't diseased, however.

The insect had previously been found to the north in Tulare County and to the south in Los Angeles County, but had not been spotted in Kern.

Local citrus growers are extremely anxious about the threat of so-called citrus greening disease, known as huanglongbing in China, where it originated. The illness isn't harmful to people or animals, but it ruins fruit and eventually kills citrus trees.

"It would literally wipe out the citrus industry in this valley," said Agricultural Commissioner Ruben Arroyo. "That's what happened in Florida."

Florida biologists first detected the pest in 1998 and found the disease in 2005. Both are now in all 30 citrus-producing counties there.

Citrus is Kern's sixth largest agricultural commodity by value, according to the Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards. Last year the county's citrus crop was valued at \$620,350,000, and 53,747 acres of citrus were harvested.

Hundreds of traps are being hung in a five-square-mile area where the psyllid was found. If any of those traps yields an infected psyllid, the area could be placed under quarantine.

In addition to California, the pest and disease have been found in Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and Texas. The psyllid but not the disease is in Alabama, Arizona and Mississippi.
Source: <http://www.bakersfieldcalifornian.com>)