

Australian

STONEFRUIT

GROWER

incorporating the Low Chill Stonefruit Grower

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'Australian Stonefruit Grower' is the official publication of Summerfruit Australia Ltd & Low Chill Australia Inc. – the industry bodies representing the interests of Australian stone fruit growers.



Know-how for Horticulture™

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IN THIS ISSUE –

Summerfruit Information –

Contacts -	Page 2
2013-2014 Board -	Page 3
From the Summerfruit Chairman -	Page 4
Summerfruit CEO Round Up -	Page 7
Industry Leadership Course -	Page 20

Low Chill Australia Information –

Contacts -	Page 2
2013-2014 Committee -	Page 5
From the LCA President -	Page 5

Industry Information –

Birdwood Nursery -	Page 6
GrowData Developments -	Page 11
Felco 820 & 801 electric pruning shears -	Page 12
29 th International Horticultural Congress 2014 -	Page 12
Felco – New faster, lighter Felcotronic promises productivity -	Page 13
2014 Irrigation Australia Conference & Exhibition -	Page 15
AUSVEG Conference -	Page 16
AustSafe Super – The Industry SuperFund for Regional Australia -	Page 16
Handbook for the Identification of Fruit Fly -	Page 17
Little Cherry Virus 2 – National Talking Point -	Page 18
RIRDC Rural Women’s Award -	Page 19
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – Rural Scholarships -	Page 25
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – Rural Achiever Award -	Page 25
2014 Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship -	Page 26

Reports –

9 th International Symposium on Fruit Flies of Economic Importance -	Page 9
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Research –

Experts come together to consider risks to honey bees -	Page 14
Usefulness of the IAD Index in the Field -	Page 26

Export – Imports –

Australian Summerfruit Exports – October to February 2014 -	Page 27
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Publication Details –

Rates & Deadlines -	Page 33
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Supplied by Summerfruit Australia Ltd.

Readers, please feel free to submit a cover photo for consideration. Ed.

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The Taste of Spring



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To find out more about Summerfruit Australia Ltd, check out the website: www.summerfruit.com.au





From the Summerfruit Chairman -

With the 2013 harvest finished now is the time when many growers stop and take stock of the season just gone, reflect on what went well and what did not go so well, and take the time to review their business plans.

The time for review and reflection is also happening at SAL with the review of the *Summerfruit Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)* now being undertaken. This is your opportunity to have input into that plan. The SIP provides the guidelines for research and development priorities spanning the next five years funded by the levies paid by growers on every kilo of fruit that they produce. The current SIP was developed in 2010 and is due to be replaced at the end of 2014.

Broadly speaking the current SIP identified five strategic objectives for research and development.

Objective 1: increased demand and improved market performance with funds allocated at 40%.

Objective 2: reduce costs in the production and supply chain with funds allocated at 15%.

Objective 3: improved quality and consistency of produce with funds allocated at 15%.

Objective: adapt to climate and water supply changes with funds allocated at 15%.

Objective 5: improve industry cohesion and development with funds allocated at 15%.

During the life of this plan the control of fruit flies became a major issue for the industry to have to deal with. As most growers are aware this occurred as a result of major changes by APVMA to the use patterns of the key chemicals *Dimethoate* and *Fenthion*. This resulted in significantly more investment than was proposed to be shifted to projects covering fruit fly management, altering somewhat the balance of funding within the five objectives.

However, without effective and affordable control options for fruit flies many summerfruit production areas would face the probability of large economic losses. It is against this type of scenario that the new SIP will need to have within its framework the ability to be flexible and the capacity to be able to accommodate the additional research that may be required to be targeted at unexpected events that have the potential to severely impact on our industry.

I urge you to take the time to think about how you would like to see your industry levies spent over the next five years and convey those thoughts back to the Board through either your State Directors or through John Moore. This information can then be taken into consideration when determining Summerfruit's SIP for the next five years.

Kind regards

Andrew Finlay – Chairman



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From the LCA President – Mark Napper

As I reflect on previous reports there has been a common theme of change. This quarter is no different.

At the time of writing the Federal Treasurer is about to deliver his first budget. The pre-budget discussions have been warning that change is inevitable and that all taxpayers have to be prepared to contribute to the future strength of the Australian economy, the notion being that there has to be some short term pain for long term gain.

Also we have had the release of the final report of the review of Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) by consultants, ACIL Allen. The review was overseen by an independent steering committee as part of a requirement under HAL's statutory funding arrangement with the Australian Government. The review process was comprehensive and the recommendations extensive which, if adopted, will have an impact not only on the ownership of HAL but also the way it interacts with peak industry bodies and growers.





HAL will be developing its response over the next three months following consultation with members. It is important that your views are heard during this consultation period. Any thoughts you have on these recommendations should be given to Summerfruit Australia to assist the Board formulate a representative summerfruit industry response.

As these external changes occur we need to reflect on their impact to our farming businesses. What can we do at the farm business level to respond? What impact do they have on our business plan? Do we have a business plan? What is the impact on varieties, marketing channels, promotions? Serious questions requiring serious consideration. Pain now for future sustainable gain? As we have found this year, change is inevitable requiring us as individuals and as a united industry to move with the change to ensure a sustainable future.

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but building the new”. Socrates

Regards

Mark Napper – President



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Summerfruit CEO Round Up ...



A Time to take Stock and Regroup

It puzzles me that in agriculture/horticulture the saying used to be “if you averaged 3 good years in 5” you’re doing all right. Now some are saying if you have “2 good years in 11 you’re doing all right”. Why is the average blowing out? Is it the weather? Or is it that mythical expression, if you don’t commence an important of farm activity by say ANZAC day or Melbourne Cup, the whole year goes belly up?

Whatever it is, an observation of this year must reinforce another popular belief “prices are clearly linked to demand”. It certainly has panned out this way this year with the low volume of fruit available has seen very reasonable returns to most producers.

Coming off a period of oversupply and floods can we call this year fair to middling?

Our Industry exports were certainly strong again, with 95% of the season accounted for, + .5% growth on the back of a record 2012/13 season +21% with Asia taking an increased focus, perhaps encouraged by impending market access hopefully announced in time to capture commencement this coming season (see more statistical information in this newsletter Page).

I was fortunate to be part of the recent *Australia Week* in China (AWIC) delegation hosted by **Prime Minister Abbott, Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Robb** and **Minister for Small Business, Bruce Billson**. The networks the Agribusiness delegation visited and seminars attended noted Summerfruit’s presence.

The announcement by the PM that he wished the pending FTA be completed by November and the invitation to visit Australia and accepted by **President Xi Jinping** to address both Houses of Parliament makes it every likelihood that something could fall our way with some good news during the President’s visit.

The AWIC delegation was headed by **3 Ministers, 5 State Premiers** and accompanied by over **700 business leaders** (564 Australian organisations) and involved over 2,400 Chinese guests across multiple locations. The businesses attending represented **60% of the Australian Stock Exchange** (obviously not SAL). To be part of this milestone was rewarding and most beneficial.



L to R - John Moore, Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb

A very strong take home message for our Industries future was the emerging power of e-commerce. **China has 271million online shoppers or greater than 11 times Australia’s population.** Currently 8% of all China’s shopping is by online purchasing and by 2025, 50% will be online purchasing across Tier 1 – Tier 6 cities. On the infamous ‘*singles day*’ celebrated every year on 11/11, over \$8 billion RMB (A\$ 1.6 billion) was spent online. Another incredible statistic is that in all forms of shopping for food and beverage, 46.1% of Tier 1 city (Beijing, Shanghai & Guangzhou) shoppers look for imported product and obviously this is projected to increase rapidly.

A key-contributing factor for demand in imported product is the growing air pollution issue. There are grave fears of crop shortages or what it has been termed ‘*nuclear winters*’ or no growth periods due to air quality and lack of photosynthesis. It has been said that Beijing’s air quality is 17% worse than a smoking lounge at an airport.

Fruit Day.com (founded in 2009), a specialist fresh fruit e-commerce company, sold a 40’ Container of Australian citrus in 20 minutes by online shopping in Shanghai last season. Fruit Day has a customer base of over 300,000 listed shoppers in Shanghai.

What I’m trying to demonstrate is that with official market access our Industry will be able to take stock and continue with “more good years” than mediocre or poor years because domestic demand hopefully will be similar and greater to this year; prices chasing lower volumes.



China is not the complete answer to our equation; we continue to mismanage our industry supply volumes. I understand you can't buy a stonefruit tree from any nursery again, the third year in succession. Granted that trees are being pushed over but it is thought provoking about national volumes and something to be aware of.

I am a very big proponent of the *InfoStone* program. SAL tried nationally a couple of years ago to implement a tree population, variety and yield program but unfortunately it was not widely accepted by the larger growing regions. Perhaps with the invitation sent recently to all stone fruit producers on my database, to be involved and contribute to the new *2015-2020 Strategic Industry Plan (SIP)* development is an opportunity for you re-introduce *InfoStone*. Quite a simple task to add some thoughts to the online questionnaire formulated by *Freshlogic* who have been engaged to develop your industry SIP. <http://freshlogic.com.au/summerfruit-strategic-investment-plan-2015-2020>. *InfoStone* will give you an important tool and a very confidential 'yardstick' to monitor your and national fruit supply peaks and troughs and offer a better variety flow but it is very dependent of wide participation for accuracy predictions.

I was recently reported of welcoming USA stonefruit arrivals, true and I am also acutely aware of the impact on the early domestic fruit production. Last years' USA fruit did not impact greatly. In fact it set up a sound base for robust consumption. For our consumers to have year round availability of peach and nectarines is encouraging a diet that surely we can't be unhappy about and it certainly flows that demand and supply are met.

Reciprocity is in the pipeline. SAL's USA access is progressing, albeit slowly, however if we expect to have exports we must accept imports. International trade is all the talk at the moment with FTA's and the all-encompassing Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement with Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam is well advanced to fruition.

As an Industry we must be in a position to embrace current and future opportunities on the horizon but with our inherent Fruit Fly issues we need R&D funds to undertake urgent efficacy trials to satisfy phytosanitary market protocols and to balance trade with competitors.

Undertaking verification trials for efficacy does take some time, usually 2 years minimum, and the longer Industry procrastinates the further behind the '8 ball' we are. Unfortunately, Industry is not flush with these funds – 100% due to the failed levy increase vote in 2010. If there is a genuine will for our Industry to 'kick some goals' I urge you to demonstrate this by sending your thoughts to the *Freshlogic* link above.

Finally, the **Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Review** conducted by *ACIL Allen Consulting* has been sent to the Minister for Agriculture. The HAL Board has received the final report but has not endorsed the report. The HAL Board acknowledged that *ACIL Allen* consultants reported within the Terms of Reference and overseen by an independent steering committee, as part of a requirement under HAL's statutory funding arrangement (SFA) with the Australian Government.

On 9th May 2014 all 43 Horticultural Peak Industry Bodies were briefed on the final report summary of recommendations. I have included the review summary and public link to the full report (312pages). The HAL Board will respond to the final report and recommendations within the next three months following consultation with members during a series of member workshops on 27-28th May 2014.

"HAL looks forward to continuing to play a key role in maintaining the competitiveness of Australian horticulture for the benefit of members, growers and the wider community," Mr. Lloyd said

With the current topical Commission of Audit Report and the possible implementation of some of the recommended reforms, I have included the relevant link, http://www.horticulture.com.au/news_events/Hal_Review.asp, for you to see the whole report and importantly recommendations that if implemented, there will be some displeasure by the abolition of industry and export assistance programs, including comprehensive changes to government support for R&D programs. For further reading www.ncoa.gov.au.

Highlight the first booklet and scroll to sub section 8, then to 8.1 & 8.2 for greater detail of the proposed changes to export and R&D programs.

John Moore CEO – *Summerfruit Australia Ltd*



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Reports ...



9th International Symposium on Fruit Flies of Economic Importance (ISFFEI)

12-16 May 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

Report by Mark Wilkinson

The symposium is run every four years and this year in Bangkok it drew 388 participants from 60 countries to hear 40 presenters from 22 countries and view the 100+ poster presentations. Attendees were from scientific institutions, government departments, trade regulators, commercial suppliers and a grower.

Presentations and posters were presented in 9 sessions over 3 ½ days:

1. Area-Wide and Action Programs
2. Biology, Ecology, Physiology and Behaviour
3. Morphology and Taxonomy
4. Genetics and Evolution
5. Chemical Ecology and Attractants
6. Control Methods and Supporting technology
7. Natural Enemies and Biological Control
8. Sterile Insect Principles and Application
9. Risk Assessment, Quarantine and Post Harvest

Controls that have been well developed and are being used in the field are sanitation, protein baiting, trapping, lure and kill stations and SIT. There was no single control that will replace a chemical cover spray, but there were many examples of two or more controls being used to reduce fruit fly numbers to very low levels. There were no presentations that reported total failure of control. Controls that are being trialled include new lures, improved bacterial and fungal diseases, genetically engineered flies and parasites.

The Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food was represented by **Sonya Broughton**, who co-authored two posters with **Touhidur Rahman**; “*Area Wide Management of Mediterranean Fruit Fly in Western Australia*” and “*Lure and Kill for Management of Ceratitis capitata in Pome and Stone Fruit*”. These were reports on the pilot studies of MedFly control in Jarrahdale and the use of MagnetMed® in stonefruit and pomefruit orchards in the Perth Hills.

Australian expertise and funding overseas were represented by a paper presented by **Shanmugam Vijaysegaran** {Veejay} from Queensland University of Technology; “*Bait Manufactured from Beer Yeast Waste and its Use for Fruit Fly Management*”, where waste from breweries in developing countries is turned into cheap fruit fly bait. Veejay and “team Australia” also presented a poster “*Area Wide Management of Pest Fruit Flies in Smallholder Mango Farms in Indonesia*”. Veejay also co-authored “*Area-Wide Suppression of Bactrocera Fruit Flies in Dragon Fruit Orchards in Binh Thuan, Vietnam.*”

Gal Yaacobi presented “*Micro-SIT: A Novel and Sustainable Control for Ceratitis capitata in Israel.*” Where SIT releases over the top of monitoring, sanitation and targeted baiting on areas as low as 300Ha reduced medfly damage to less than one fruit in 10Ha, or 0.001flies/trap/day. The team has developed a sterile release system that can be placed into any small Cessna aeroplane for just the time required, costing for only the flying time.

Sunday Ekesi from Kenya reported on “*Autodissemination and Pathogen Dynamics in Bactrocera invadens: Screening, Horizontal Transmission and Suppression in a Mango Agroecosystem*”. A fungus that eats fruit fly was identified, produced



and tested in the field. After attracting males into a felt lined bucket treated with fungal spores 50 to 75% of the females in the area became infected, reducing fly damaged fruit from 50% with no fungus, to 10% with fungus. This fungus is now available to growers in Africa as Campaign® from the Real IPM Company (Kenya) Ltd.

On the Field trip on Wednesday we were shown the exchange of fruit flies trapped by the local farmers for fertilizer, 3kg of flies is exchanged for 15kg of fertilizer. The scheme had started slowly a few years ago because the traps the government supplied made the capture of that many flies unlikely; then a farmer developed his own trap and now fly catching is a booming sideline.

Bernie Dominiak from NSW DPI presented on “*Revised Quarantine Distances for Domestic and International Trading*” where historic trap data was analyzed to justify a suspension of pest freedom from the current 15Km to 4Km after an incursion is detected. This was received quietly but not enthusiastically by the attendees, the ground is prepared but results may be decades away.

There were no presentations or posters on cover-sprays for fruit fly control, either for old or new chemicals. Consumer demand and government regulation is tending towards no residue of any chemical in food at point of sale, even where this may never be achievable.

Overall a very interesting scientific meeting with lessons for fruit fly control in Australia now and in the future.

Australian attendees of note:

- **Tony Clarke** - UQ research
- **Olivia Reynolds** - NSW DPI
- **Bernie Dominiak** - NSW DPI
- **Andrew Jessup** - NSW DPI
- **Philip Taylor** - Macquarie University
- **David Moore** - HAL R&D
- **Rod Turner** - PHA Risk Manager
- **David Daniels** - Citrus Australia Market Access Manager

THE HOST – Thailand’s MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES

Established in 1889 – During the reign of King Chulalongkorn (Rama v), the Government stepped up efforts to promote agriculture systematically in term of both a relevant body of knowledge, and technological advancement to the best of its ability in the light of colonial threats from the then Western powers. The king's initiatives to promote and develop the national's agricultural sector first took shape when His Majesty commanded the upgrading of the Bureau of Paddy Fields (Krom Na), which was part of the Jatusadom administrative system then, and was in charge of the management of farm affairs, to the Ministry of Agricultural Commerce (Krasuang Kaset Panichayakan) during the public administration reform in B.E. 2435 (1982).

This was to be followed by a further modernization drive, whereby the Ministry of Agricultural Commerce was transformed the Ministry of Agricultural Administration (Krasuang Kasettratikan) in B.E. 2442 (1889).

The Ministry of Agricultural Administration has, henceforth, become the pivotal agency in the administration and overseeing of agricultural affairs on His Majesty's behalf, ranging from the allocation of land for cultivation purposes (the issuance of land total deeds), the improvement of irrigation, the improvement of cultivation practices, the administration of agricultural studies, and the acquisition of foreign experts in the capacity of advisors to the ministry.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION – Agricultural sector has long been the country's important production sector. The principal goal of agricultural development in each period placed an emphasis on the uplift of quality of life of farmers who are the majority of Thai population. The Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) is one of the core agencies in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives which is directly responsible for the undertakings of agricultural extension and works closely with farmers. The DOAE was established on October, 1967 by a Royal Decree published in the Government Gazette special issue dated October 20, 1967.

Vision: *DOAE is the leading agency to develop and promote farm families to have sustainable well-being.*

Mission:

1. *Empower farmers, farm families, farmer organizations and community enterprises so they can be self-reliant*
2. *Increase capacity building of farmers in the areas of production and management of agricultural products in line with marketing demand*
3. *Provide agricultural services in response to arising problems and farmers' needs*
4. *Conduct agricultural extension research and development and work with all stakeholders in an integrated manner*
5. *Staff of Department of Agricultural Extension: 13,648 persons*



Industry Information ...

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Making audits a breeze with a new electronic Spray Diary

GrowData Developments is Australia's leading provider of orchard and vineyard management software. They have recently made a bold move by taking their spray diary, (which has been the centrepiece of their premium management software product) and making it available to growers on the Cloud for a very reasonable **\$19.95 per month**. The decision is proving to be very popular with growers.

For over twelve years **GrowData** have been selling the full version of their Orchard and Vineyard Management Systems and many hundreds of Australia's and New Zealand's leading growers are now dedicated users, but there are also a large number of growers looking for a low cost, easy way to manage their quality assurance & food safety obligations without having to purchase the premium management system.

The spray diary is cloud based which will provide a huge number of benefits to growers over traditional spread sheets and programs built into their desktop computers.

Being on the cloud means that you can log in from anywhere on your orchard or around the world, using a smart phone, iPad and other mobile devices with internet connectivity.

GrowData have recently moved all their existing clients onto the cloud and the positive reaction from these clients (who are using the premium cost tracking version) has been overwhelming.

GrowData's Spray Diary is very easy to use and meets all the requirements of international compliance including Global Gap and Tesco's, - as well as Australian Q.A. and food safety systems.

Everything is at your fingertips come audit time.

Not only does the program manage all folia applications but also dry fertiliser spreading and fertigation. It also maintains an inventory of stock in chemical sheds and will warn you if you are



going to apply a chemical with a withholding restriction too close to a harvest date. There are also a vast number of reports which you can view on screen or download into your computer in .pdf format ready for emailing if required.

Everything is at your fingertips come audit time.

There are no lock-in contracts and *GrowData* is offering a 30 day free trial and a full money back guarantee if you're not completely satisfied.

GrowData also have a spray diary for the vegetable industry. You can get more information at: www.spraydiary.com

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29th International Horticultural Congress 2014

The organisation of IHC2014 is a joint initiative of the Australian Society of Horticultural Science (AuSHS), the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science (NZIAHS) and Pacific Island countries. It is expected that over 2,500 international delegates from at least 120 countries will attend the 2014 congress in Brisbane.

Full details of this event, including the scientific program, are available at www.ihc2014.org; where you can also register your interest in order to receive newsletters and updates about this event.



Industry Information ...



New faster, lighter Felcotronic promises productivity.

The new **Felco 801** electric pruning shear was released in Australia in March, 2014. Designed and made in Switzerland, this model extends the range from the powerful Felco 820 released in 2013. The light, ergonomic design and manoeuvrability of the Felco 801 makes it particularly suited to vineyard and horticultural pruning.

A major benefit of the new **Felco 801** is its light weight. At just 745g, Felco claims the handpiece is the lightest on the market. It sits comfortably in the hand while the trigger gives highly accurate control of blade movement for maximum precision, efficient cutting and safety. Another innovative feature is trigger-activated shutdown.

The cutting cycle is extremely fast, due to the combination of the mechanical engineering system and a high-technology motor.

The power pack is another significant advance in the design of the **Felco 801**. A lithium polymer battery is housed in a light and comfortable backpack that sits close to the user's body for optimum freedom of movement. The new model uses the same battery pack as the larger capacity **Felco 820**.

The harness is compact and light at 920g with battery. The power pack is compatible with other models in the Felcotronic range. The unit is activated by a control box attached to the user's belt. A digital display shows battery life, number of cuts and service intervals. A USB port allows charging of a mobile phone or media player.

Blaise Vinot, Director of Felco Australia Pty Ltd is delighted at the feedback from trials to date. "The new model has undergone extensive trials in Australia over the past two years. Reports from users indicate an improvement in productivity of 10 to 15 percent," he said.



Reports from users indicate an improvement in productivity of 10 to 15 percent.

"We believe productivity has become a very important criterion for assessment of new pruning tools and are confident that the new **Felco 801** will deliver a significant improvement in this area," Mr Vinot said.

Model variants include the **Felco 801G**, especially designed for left-handers, while optional cutting heads are available for cutting small diameters (Felco 800F) and sheep and goat hoof trimming (Felco 800M).



The Felco 801 is supported in Australia by a national network of sales and service agents to ensure prompt, reliable service and parts availability.



Research ...



Experts come together to consider pesticide risks to honey bees

A symposium held in Canberra on 9 April 2014 concluded that neonicotinoids, a newer class of insecticide commonly used to control insect pests in crops, are unlikely to be presenting any greater threat to honey bees and crop pollination than other pesticides which have been in use for many years.

The symposium, organised by **Plant Health Australia (PHA)**, the not-for-profit coordinators of the plant biosecurity partnership in Australia, brought together 90 representatives from government agencies, the honey bee industry, crop industries that rely on honey bees for pollination, and researchers, to examine information gathered globally on the effects of neonicotinoids on insect pollinators. The meeting was sponsored by the **Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)**, the **Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)**, and the **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**.

It was agreed that neonicotinoids can adversely impact bee populations if used incorrectly, the same as other pesticides (including insecticides and fungicides), but that with sensible safeguards in place the chemicals can still be used to control pests on crops.

Dr Les Davies, Chief Regulatory Scientist from APVMA, described the findings from a recently-published APVMA summary report looking at the possible risks to bees arising from the various uses of the neonicotinoid insecticides in Australia. “Having reviewed information collected from around the world over the past few decades, it’s clear that it’s not possible to attribute bee population declines in some parts of the world to the introduction of the neonicotinoid insecticides”, Dr Davies said.

“Current scientific opinion is that these pollinator declines are likely to be caused by multiple interacting pressures which may include habitat loss and disappearance of floral resources, honeybee nutrition, climate change, bee pests and pathogens, miticides and other chemicals intentionally used in hives and bee husbandry practices, as well as agricultural pesticides. To reduce the risks from pesticide use we need to ensure that a range of regulatory, industry stewardship and educational measures are in place.”

Dr Davies added, “Of course, given the importance of bees to agriculture and ecosystems, we will continue to encourage more research and surveillance on the effects of pesticides on bees in Australia.”

The APVMA report acknowledges that incidents of beekeepers losing bee colonies as a result of insecticide do occur, but these can be minimised with proper use and effective communication between the farmer and the beekeeper.

The report concludes that overall, the introduction of neonicotinoids has probably reduced risks to the environment from the application of insecticides.

Rod Turner, PHA’s General Manager of Risk Management, said that the meeting was a positive step towards better understanding how honey bee activities and chemical control of insect pests can occur side-by-side, with correct use and application.

“It’s good news that Australian farmers can use neonicotinoid pesticides when they need to control pests affecting crops,” Mr Turner said. “It was important to sit down with all affected parties and assess the scientific evidence.”

Mr Turner added, “Australia has one of the healthiest bee populations in the world and the research indicates that with sensible measures, we will be able to keep them healthy and benefit from their honey making and pollination services.”

PHA will now work with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), the APVMA, and plant industries to devise measures with the focus on ensuring the sustainability of honey bees in Australia.

The APVMA report, *Neonicotinoids and the health of honey bees in Australia*, is available on the [APVMA website](http://apvma.gov.au/news_media/chemicals/bee_and_neonicotinoids.php).
[apvma.gov.au/news_media/chemicals/bee_and_neonicotinoids.php]



Industry Information ...



This National Biennial Conference and Trade Exhibition is taking place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre Queensland from 2nd – 6th June 2014. The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is located in the sought after sunshine state of Australia in the heart of the Gold Coast next to Jupiter’s Hotel / Casino at Broadbeach.

This major event sees the entire irrigation industry together at the largest event of its kind in the Asia Pacific region. The conference and exhibition will bring **irrigators, suppliers, equipment manufacturers, researchers, water supply organisations, advisors, government officials** and **policy makers** from across the rural and urban irrigation industries.

The conference theme “*Water for Life, Future for All*” will look to the future of irrigation covering such issues as Sustainable Water Resources for Agriculture, Climate and Cloud based Irrigation Scheduling and Control, alternative Sources of Water for Urban irrigation, Micro Irrigation, Water Regulation and Water Management & Efficiency, Industry Standards and Codes of Practice, Training and Certification – analysing the impact of issues on both rural and urban communities.

The Trade Exhibition will complement the conference themes by providing both trade visitors and conference delegates the opportunity to view the latest products, services and technology that the industry has to offer from over 100 domestic and international exhibitors. With such a diverse range of equipment and knowledge on site, the show will deliver great insights and opportunities to further develop the irrigation and water management solution you are looking for.

Conference will consist of paper presentations, poster presentations, Workshops, Public Debates, Q&A sessions and Keynote Speakers. There will be participants from overseas countries such as Brazil, USA and New Zealand.

The IAL together with the Gold Coast Tourist Board will be offering various holiday and accommodation packages to extend to delegates, delegate partners and other visitors including transport services to Gold Coast Destinations such as theme parks. Irrigation Australia will also be hosting a Golf Day at a local golf club and the Gala Dinner on Wednesday 4th June 2013 in the Arena at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For more Information or Conference Registration, visit the website: <http://irrigationaustralia.com.au>

Conference queries are to be directed to Mandy Winter: mandy@con-sol.com

Exhibition enquiries should be directed to Tatum Pearce – tpearce@etf.com.au



Horticulture’s biggest event to inject millions into Cairns economy

Australia’s largest horticultural convention, **The AUSVEG National Convention Trade Show and Awards for Excellence**, is forecast to boost the Cairns economy by more than \$2 million when it arrives in Cairns next month. The Convention will run from **19 – 21 June** and is expected to attract over 1,000 delegates to the region from across the country, as well as from across the globe.

“The National Convention will embrace all aspects of the wonderful city of Cairns over a period of three exciting days. Through service providers and retail businesses associated with the Convention, it is expected that over \$2 million will be injected into the local economy,” said AUSVEG Chief Executive Officer, **Richard Mulcahy**.

AUSVEG is the leading horticultural body representing Australia’s 9,000 vegetable and potato growers.



“We have now contracted five leading hotels in Cairns, with more than 1,500 room nights locked in for delegates. There will also be tours of the region and the reef, all creating work for staff and further stimulating the Cairns economy.”

“The city of Cairns was selected due to its leading facilities, temperate winter climate and world-renowned natural beauty. Many growers have also incorporated holiday plans around the Convention, so the economic benefits should be felt both before and after the event as well,” said Mr Mulcahy.

The AUSVEG National Convention is the largest event in Australian horticulture, and celebrates the achievements of the industry by bringing together vegetable and potato growers from around the country, and allowing them to experience new technologies and ideas, and share business skills.

Parliamentary representatives of all the political interests holding the balance of power in the Senate will be in attendance, including high-profile Independent **Senator Nick Xenophon**. The Government will be represented by **Agriculture Minister, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce** and the **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister, Senator Richard Colbeck**. The Opposition will be represented by **Shadow Agriculture Minister Joel Fitzgibbon**.

“This year’s Convention includes a range of exciting events, such as the Kalfresh panel discussion on the Supermarket Voluntary Code of Conduct, the Great Debate which will this year focus on the contentious topic of foreign investment in agriculture, a Reverse Trade Mission of over 40 international buyers, and the weekend’s capstone event, the Awards for Excellence,” said Mr Mulcahy.

Some of the biggest names in Australian horticulture will be speaking at the event, including a keynote presentation from the Federal Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP. Also presenting is Syngenta’s Global head of Vegetables, Alexander Tokarz, Senior Key Relations Manager, Food Chain Management at Bayer CropScience, Christine Brunel-Ligneau, and esteemed scientific personality and Triple J presenter, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. Dr Karl Kruszelnicki is appearing by arrangement with Claxton Speakers International.

“With three days’ of informative and exciting Speaker Sessions, the 2014 AUSVEG National Convention, Trade Show and Awards for Excellence is an event not-to-be-missed,” said Mr Mulcahy.

For more information visit www.ausveg.com.au/convention or contact AUSVEG on (03) 9822 0388.



The Industry SuperFund for regional Australians

As many LCA members will be aware, AustSafe Super is the Industry SuperFund for rural and regional Australia. We’re committed to looking after the superannuation needs of members and employers in regional areas, and have been servicing the Horticulture sector for over 25 years.

We’ve continued to grow and actively look after superannuation for more than 135,000 members and 14,000 employers across Australia.

As an Industry SuperFund, we’re run only to benefit members which means competitive fees, strong performance and no commissions paid to financial planners.



Our dedicated Regional Managers, who live and work in local regional areas, understand the specific business and superannuation needs of employers. **Paul Meredith** is AustSafe Super’s Northern NSW Regional Manager and says, “It’s our job to help make super easy for employers, and to ensure we are updating them on any upcoming changes.”

“The Federal Government is implementing some important changes to the super system, which will impact how employers make contributions. We’re committed to helping employers make sense of these changes,” Paul said.



Performance . . .

AustSafe Super's MySuper (Balanced) Investment Option² for Industry and Personal Super was ranked among the **Top 10 Performing Super Funds for 2013** with a strong return of 18.46% for the year ended 31 December 2013. This strong performance is not just over the short term, with the MySuper (Balanced) Investment Option² providing a 10 year average³ return of 7.42% p.a. to 31 December 2013.

"Superannuation is a 40-plus year investment and as an Industry SuperFund we aim to achieve consistent strong investment returns over the longer term as demonstrated by our 'since inception' return of 9.27% for the MySuper (Balanced) Investment Option²," Paul said.

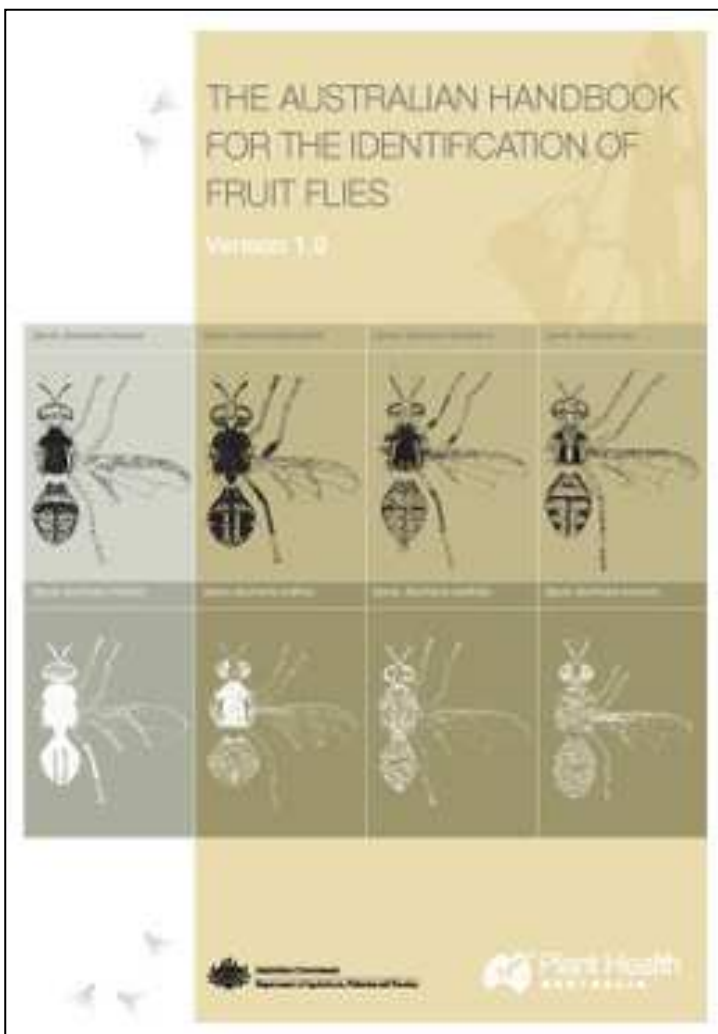
You can contact Paul on 0419 601 908 or pmeredith@ausSAFE.com.au, or check our website at ausSAFE.com.au to get in touch with any of our other Regional Managers.

For full details of the survey results and the ranking criteria used visit www.superratings.com.au.

¹Based on "SuperRatings Fund Crediting Rate Survey – SR 50 Balanced (60 -76) Index" released 20 January 2014. ²Prior to 31 December 2013, the MySuper (Balanced) Investment Option was known as the Balanced Investment Option. ³'Average' means the compound average of the net earning rates applied to member accounts. Past performance is not an indication of future performance.

This article contains general information only and does not take into account your personal financial situation, needs or objectives. You should consider this information in light of your own circumstances. You may also wish to seek the advice of a qualified financial planner. Please read the AustSafe Super Industry Super Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before making a decision on whether this product is best for you. Austsafe Pty Ltd ABN 96 010 528 597, AFSL 314183 is the Trustee of AustSafe Super ABN 92 398 191 503.

Industry Information ...



Handbook for the Identification of Fruit Fly

The accurate identification of fruit flies is a key component of Australia's biosecurity system that underpins the domestic movement of fruit and vegetables, maintains international market access for Australian producers and protects Australia's borders from exotic pest incursions.

In 2011, the Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer (OCPPO) commissioned PHA to facilitate the development of a handbook to identify fruit fly. PHA developed *The Australian Handbook for the Identification of Fruit Flies* in consultation with and input from fruit fly entomologists, scientists, academics and diagnosticians from Australia's government departments of agriculture or primary industries and research institutions.

The handbook integrates all the techniques currently used in Australia for the identification of 47 species of exotic fruit flies.

Further information on the handbook is available from ocppo@daff.gov.au Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.





Industry Information ...



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Little Cherry Virus 2 National Talking Points | 03 April 2014

- The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has worked with other agriculture agencies and industry groups to respond to the detection of Little Cherry Virus 2 in Tasmania.
- Part of this work has included thorough tracing and surveillance activities in Tasmania and mainland Australia. Tracing activities have resulted in a detection of the virus in Victoria, but further, indicates that the virus may have entered Australia as early as 1976 in plant material.
- Tracing also indicates that since 1995, a large number of potentially infected plants were distributed out of Victoria to all Australian jurisdictions, with the exception of the Northern Territory.
- The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests has met to discuss the response to date and the possibility of eradicating Little Cherry Virus 2 from Australia.
- **The committee agreed unanimously that the virus cannot be eradicated, based on the scientific evidence that has been presented. The evidence indicates that:**
 - it is highly likely that the virus has been in Australia for more than 35 years, and symptoms may take years to express in trees
 - the virus symptoms may have, in the past, been attributed to other factors such as water logging or simply lack of performance, and
 - because cuttings and grafting are used to propagate these trees, there is a strong possibility that it is wide spread across Australia.
- Movement restrictions that were in place while biosecurity authorities conducted tracing and surveillance activities have now been lifted.
- Industry and government will work together to develop specific information for growers, including potential impacts on orchards, and the ongoing management of this virus where it already exists. Cherry Growers Australia and Summerfruit Australia will be providing this information and advice to their members.
- Growers and gardeners should always remain vigilant for signs of unusual pests or diseases symptoms in their trees and other plants, and continue to maintain good biosecurity practices. Anything unusual should be reported to their local department responsible for agriculture, or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, which is 1800 084 881.
- There are no food safety risks for consumers eating or handling cherries.
- The virus affects the overall health of the cherry tree, resulting in fruit that is smaller and lacking flavour.
- The virus can be spread by the movement of propagation material such as root stock or cuttings. It does not spread by moving cherries from infected trees.
- Overseas, the virus is also known to be transmitted by the apple and grape mealybugs. However, these two mealybugs are not present in Australia.
- Little Cherry Virus 2 was detected in early 2014 on 12 properties in both the north and south of Tasmania.
- Further information about Little Cherry Virus 2 is available on the website of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, dppwe.tas.gov.au.

Trade

- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture will provide an update to the International Plant Protection Convention, as it is required to do.
- Australia has notified relevant trading partners and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture will continue to liaise closely with its overseas trading partners to maintain export markets.
- Cherry exporters should contact the office of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture in their region for further advice in regards to export certification. Information will also be available at daff.gov.au.
- Australia exported nearly 3000 tonnes of cherries worth \$36.3 million in 2013, to over 25 markets. Over 80% of exports went into the Asia Region with the top markets being Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Other markets are in the Middle East and Europe.

The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests includes the chief plant health managers and other technical experts from the Australian, state and territory governments, affected industries and Plant Health Australia.



Industry Information ...

RIRDC Rural
Women's
Award



Seven of Australia's leading rural women are in the running to be announced as the national winner of the 2014 RIRDC Rural Women's Award.

Each of the seven finalists – one from each state and the Northern Territory – were selected based on a project or “vision” they want to implement that will benefit rural people or rural industries. Each of the finalists will receive a \$10,000 bursary to help make their project a reality.

The Award also provides the state winners and runners-up with personal and professional development opportunities, including access to a network of Award alumni mentors and a Company Directors course run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

The national winner will be announced on 24 September at the 2014 RIRDC Rural Women's Award National Celebratory Dinner, to be held at Parliament House in Canberra.

The 2014 RIRDC Rural Women's Award state winners and their projects are:

Tasmania State Winner – Annette Reid – Annette will undertake a study tour to western USA and Canada to explore successful niche market tomato and garlic enterprises. Annette plans to explore growing methods, best varieties for transport and sale, frost mitigation, extending growing season, marketing, value adding, packaging, consumer preferences and much more. **Runner-up - Sarah Hirst**

Victoria State Winner – Julie Aldous – Julie will promote careers in primary industries and learning opportunities for high school students through local land management placements and the development of partnerships between schools and their rural communities. **Runner-up - Avril Hogan**

Western Australia State Winner – Jackie Jarvis – Jackie will create video postcards showcasing resettled refugees working in agriculture, following on from a program she is running that helps migrants find employment on farms. **Runner-up - Jodie Lane**

South Australia State Winner – Penny Schulz – Penny will run the National Dairy Challenge, a two day event attracting small teams from across the country to compete in a range of dairy related activities including pasture management, cattle judging, cheese/milk tasting, animal selection based on genetic breeding values and milk quality control. **Runner-up - Susie Green**

Northern Territory Winner – Dr Amelia Rentz – Amelia will develop a rural education program focusing on high risk diseases of animals which can infect humans, and how they relate to humans and animals in regional northern Australia. **Runner-up - Bonnie Henderson**

Queensland State Winner – Lauren Hewitt – Lauren will look at improving farm profitability through leasehold tenure and rent security - sharing knowledge and improving collaboration between leasehold jurisdictions. **Runner up - Rhonda Sorenson**

New South Wales State Winner – Pip Job – Pip will set up a rural women's training program 'Positive Farming Footprints' to create a community of women who have the adaptive capacity to manage the challenges of rural life. **Runner-up - Edwina Beveridge**

About the RIRDC Rural Women's Award

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award is Australia's pre-eminent award for rural women. The Award was instigated by RIRDC in 2000 to support women with demonstrated leadership capabilities and a commitment to make an even greater contribution to their industries and communities.

The Award's Platinum Sponsor is **Westpac Agribusiness**, its national partner is the **Australian Government Department of Agriculture**, and its media partners are **OUTBACK magazine**, **ABC Radio** and **Fairfax Agricultural Media**.



Industry Leadership Course ...



13th May 2014

Dear Grower, Packer, Supply Chain specialist

Industry Leadership Course

Whilst Summerfruit growers and the supply chain face many significant challenges, I believe there are a number of opportunities for resurgence in the size and profitability of the industry. In moving forward we all need to stare down the challenges by either rectifying the issues or turning them around to seize the opportunities they present. That in turn takes leadership.

Leadership is a complex process; but it is also a constantly evolving one, which can always be improved upon. Arming our valuable family members and employees with leadership skills is fundamental to developing an innovative sustainable future for our industry.

I am pleased that again this year SAL has partnered with APAL to provide a 5 day live-in leadership course for emerging leaders in the apple, pear, cherry and stone-fruit industries. The course will be managed by the prestigious agricultural specialist Marcus Oldham College near Geelong in Victoria.

I am writing to invite you to consider sending one or more of your employees to participate in the course. Alternatively you might identify potential candidates within your front or backend supply chains whom you see as a potential leader with a lot to offer the industry.

The course last year was highly successful. I understand that a number of participants were initially reluctant or uncertain about what the course might deliver. Our post course evaluation clearly demonstrated that the course content was both relevant and highly valued. The course covers personal development, leadership styles, managing change and team building, negotiation and communication. Leadership is addressed at the personal, enterprise and industry level.

This year's Industry Leadership Course will be delivered over the period 6-11 July 2014. The course is an initiative of APAL and is supported by SAL and is partially sponsored by Horticulture Australia Limited. This means that it can be offered to participants at a low price of \$1,500 – which is excellent value for 5 days of intensive input from lecturers who are national leaders in their fields. Note that this price also includes all meals, accommodation and tours held during the course.

I have attached a brochure, which provides details about the course and an application form. On top of the \$1500 fee, travel to Marcus Oldham College (near Geelong in Victoria) is at the cost of the participant. However we do have a small budget that allows a contribution to the cost of participants travelling long distances.

If you are interested in sending someone to the course, APAL's Industry Services Manager, Mrs Annie Farrow, can provide more details (afarrow@apal.org.au or 0408 526 786).

Places are tightly limited. It is important that candidates return the attached application form to Nikita Block (info@apal.org.au or fax 03 93293522) before **5 June 2014**. A final selection of participants will then be completed.

This course provides a wonderful growth opportunity for you and your employee as well as the industry. Aimed at developing leadership, communication and planning skills, scholars will participate in a process of self-discovery, skills training, knowledge building and team development, as well as a number of field excursions. Meeting other emerging leaders from across the supply chains of the apple, pear, cherry and summerfruit industries and building friendships and business networks will add to their experience.

Yours sincerely,

John Moore, CEO - SAL

8/452 Swift Street, Albury NSW 2640

Tel: 02 60416641 Fax: 02 6021 0011

E-mail: ceo@summerfruit.com.au web: summerfruit.com.au



**MARCUS
OLDHAM**
We mean business.

Emerging Leaders

A PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE
WORKING IN THE APPLE,
PEAR, CHERRY AND
SUMMER FRUIT INDUSTRIES.

6 July - 11 July 2014
Marcus Oldham College

SUPPORTED BY



Horticulture Australia



APPLE & PEAR AUSTRALIA LTD



At Marcus Oldham, we believe that when it comes to your future, it's important to invest in yourself.

Our Emerging Leaders Program gives you the tools to excel as an innovative, well-educated and passionate industry leader.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Over the course of a week you'll work to develop leadership, communication and planning skills. Through personal involvement and group participation you'll gain an understanding of your own strengths and development needs, as well as having the opportunity to network with keynote speakers from your industry.

This program is partly sponsored by the apple and pear levy through Horticulture Australia Limited.

- Participant cost: \$1500
- Applications close 1 June, 2014

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You can expect to gain:

- an appreciation of the demands of leadership within the current economic environment
- awareness of the primary leadership styles
- an understanding of your own strengths and development needs, and how these interact
- communication strategies
- decision-making skills

You can expect to understand:

- how leadership styles can be influenced by different business and personal contexts
- strategy development and implementation
- confidence to implement knowledge into the business
- a range of issues which need to be considered for successful succession planning

You can expect to experience:

- a reflection on the events and experiences of your personal and work life
- networking opportunities with likeminded national industry colleagues

The Emerging Leaders Program for people in the apple, pear, cherry and summer fruit industries is an initiative of Apple & Pear Australia Ltd and Marcus Oldham, with support from levy-paying apple and pear growers and Horticulture Australia Ltd.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

The program is open to all members of the apple, pear, cherry and summer fruit industries. Applicants can come from any segment of the industry - growing, packing, marketing, advising, supplying inputs etc. We hope that passionate emerging leaders who want to make a difference will apply. There are no age limits.



FACILITATORS



James Freemantle,
REDgum
Communications

James Freemantle is a leader in personal brand and leadership brand. As founder of REDgum Communications (redgumcommunications.com), he helps people to experience dramatic improvement in their abilities to express, influence and inspire. As a professional public speaker, James gives keynote addresses in creating positive presence and personal brand. He combines his experience in media, teaching and performing arts to deliver high energy, innovative, effective workshops.



Fiona Chambers,
Marcus Oldham
College

Fiona Chambers lectures at Marcus Oldham College in Leadership, Communications and Marketing. She has 25 years' experience working in agricultural industries in a number of capacities. Fiona's commercial experience includes exporting organic carrots to Japan for 8 years and successfully negotiating a national supply contract with one of Australia's major supermarkets. She was awarded the Victorian Farm Entrepreneur of the Year in 2000 in recognition of her practical farm achievements.



Nigel McGuckian,
RM Consulting
Group

Nigel McGuckian has spent the last 20 years helping people in rural communities with business management, farming systems, training and decision-making. He has co-authored a number of publications for farmers on rural adjustment as well as business and farm succession planning. With a keen interest in rural leadership and developing a positive future for rural communities, Nigel was awarded the Leadership Victoria, Community Leadership Award in 2003.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Sunday 6 July:	Session 1 – Setting the scene. Program introduction. What is leadership?
Monday 7 July:	Session 2 – Understanding the place of vision. Session 3 – Leadership, learning and team building. Formal dinner. Industry guest speaker.
Tuesday 8 July:	Session 4 – Communication and you. Session 5 – Communication – persuading others. Session 6 – Working with the media. Formal dinner. Guest speaker.
Wednesday 9 July:	Session 7 – Tours. Melbourne Wholesale Fruit Vegetable & Flower Market, Footscray Polar Fresh visit – Coles distribution centre, Trugarina. Leadership luncheon with industry guest speakers.
Thursday 10 July:	Session 8 – Negotiation. Session 9 – Managing change. Session 10 – The "Big Red Affair". Industry dinner, guest speaker and invited guests.
Friday 11 July:	Session 11 – Forming a view. Developing an action plan. Close and depart by 1.30pm.





APPLICATION TO ATTEND

Please forward completed application forms to info@apal.org.au or fax to APAL 03 9329 3522.
Enquiries to Annie Farrow, APAL Industry Services Manager 0408 526 786
Applications close 1 June, 2014.

Applicant details

Surname		First name	
Company			
Highest education qualification			
Address			
Mobile phone		Work phone	
Email			

1. Industry background

Fruit grown/traded/advised/researched or otherwise dealt with (list apples, pears, cherries, stone fruit etc separately):

Current role in industry (describe briefly):

Previous two positions – in industry or otherwise. (Please give role and company worked for):

2. List any current supervisory, management or leadership roles you fulfill in your business, industry, or in the community.

3. What professional role(s) do you aspire to have in five years' time?

4. Looking at the program outline, which three sessions do you think you will find most valuable in boosting your capacity as a manager or a leader? Provide your answer and a short explanation for each choice on a separate page.

5. Why would you like attend the course and why should you be selected?

Please attach (as a separate page) 250 words or less setting out why you would like to participate in the course.

6. Provide two referees

Please give the names and mobile phone numbers of two people who will support your application for this course:

A.

B.

7. Signature

Signature

Date

www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

Marcus Oldham College
145 Pigdons Road
Waurin Ponds VIC 3216

FreeCall: 1800 623 500
International: +61 3 5243 3533
Email: reception@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

Postal Address
Private Bag 116
Geelong Mail Centre VIC 3221

ABN 50 071 444 409 CRICOS Provider Code 00306D





Industry Information...

Rural Scholarships



Rural Scholarships are available to support individuals in NSW who demonstrate a passion for rural and commitment for any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW. Scholarships of \$5,000 for full-time study or \$2,500 for part-time study are available.

There is no limit on the types of courses that qualify or the age of the applicant. You could be studying anything from physiotherapy to engineering to teaching to agricultural science, horticulture and commerce – and almost everything in between. You could be studying at University, TAFE or VET courses, on campus or by distance learning. However applicants all have one thing in common – a desire to play an active part in the future of rural NSW.

Applicants for a Rural Scholarship must:

- Be enrolled in or applying for study in any accredited tertiary course at an approved Australian education provider
- Demonstrate an active interest in rural affairs and a desire to contribute to the future of rural NSW
- Demonstrate how a scholarship would assist them in achieving their education or training goal
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident



Applications open from July to September annually. For more information contact the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – P: (02) 9704 1453

RAS Rural Achiever Award

The RAS Rural Achiever Award is a state-wide leadership program open to young men and women aged 20 - 29, living and working in New South Wales. Run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, the award recognises future young leaders who are working hard to make a significant contribution to their local community and to rural Australia.



The RAS Rural Achiever Award celebrated 25 years in 2014. It continues to offer opportunities to the new generation of agriculture for personal development and the chance to make great contacts and network with agricultural industry leaders. However, the program has so much potential to grow and further foster young leaders in agriculture.

What's in it for you?

As well as the opportunity for personal development, and the chance to make great contacts and network with industry leaders, the eight chosen finalists all receive:

- A share in \$17,000 prize money, kindly provided by The Land and the RAS of NSW
- An all expenses paid, behind the scenes experience at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Nine days accommodation at Sydney Olympic Park
- 12 Month complimentary RAS membership
- Opportunity to be selected for the Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship Program
- Official Rural Achiever Uniform and Akubra Hat



For more information contact the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – P: (02) 9704 1453



Industry Information...

Applications for the Woolworths Agricultural Business Scholarship 2014 are now open!

This year Woolworths will offer 25 young Australians the opportunity to participate in our Agricultural Business Scholarship program.



The course is practical as well as theoretical, and covers topics such as:

- **Business strategy and planning**
- **Agricultural value chain**
- **Successful business leadership**
- **Business finance**
- **Logistics and supply chain management**
- **The role of government**
- **Understanding retail**
- **Sustainability and environmental issues**
- **Personal development**

Eligibility criteria

You're eligible to apply if you are:

- Aged between 20–35 years old (as at 1st January 2014)
- Currently employed in the agricultural or horticultural industry or in your second or further year of study in an agricultural or horticultural faculty at a registered tertiary institution
- Available to attend the entire course from Monday 25th August to Friday 5th September 2014 in Sydney

Woolworths is an equal opportunity organisation. So no matter what your background, gender or race, if you meet the eligibility criteria of this program, we welcome your application.

Applications open Friday 11th April to Saturday 31st May 2014. All applications will be jointly reviewed in the strictest confidence late June. To apply, visit woolworths.com.au/scholarship.

Research ...

Usefulness of the I_{AD} Index in the field: characterization of the Tatura Trellis training system on fruit maturity and quality in nectarine.

Dario Stefanelli¹, Elisa Bonora², John Lopresti¹, Guglielmo Costa²

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Understanding the effects of tree training system on yield and fruit quality is essential knowledge for growers. Different tree training shapes will vary in how much light is captured and used to transform CO₂ into carbohydrates (such as sugar) for tree growth, yield and fruit quality. In addition, the training shape can alter the gradient of light interception from the top to the bottom of the tree resulting in variable fruit colour and quality, especially soluble solids. Variability within the tree canopy is one of the main reasons for a reduction in pack out due to poor fruit quality, loss of consumer confidence in stone fruit quality and rejection from the major retailers.

Being able to measure and characterize the effect of various training systems on fruit quality, such as soluble solids and maturity, will be highly beneficial for growers allowing for better management of orchard operations such as timing of harvests and pack out. In addition, it will allow growers to be better informed on the economic aspects of different training systems.



A new non-destructive technology based on spectroscopy has been recently developed at Bologna University by Professor Guglielmo Costa and his research team.

The technology measures the absorbance of light by fruit in the visible and near infrared spectrum to calculate an “Index of Absorbance Difference” (I_{AD}). Due to the strong correlation between I_{AD} and ethylene production of peach and nectarine fruit (Ziosi et al, 2008; Stefanelli et al, 2012), the index can be used to effectively measure the physiological maturity stage at any given time during growth as well as after harvest.

The I_{AD} can be easily used in the field to determine fruit maturity variability inside the canopy, and predict harvest time in accordance with the market maturity requirements. It allows growers to better understand their orchards and act accordingly to obtain the best fruit quality to meet consumer needs. At present there is little data available regarding the use of the I_{AD} as a maturity index for peach and nectarine fruit and almost none for fruit grown in Australia.

Researchers from DEPI, in collaboration with Bologna University, set up an observational study at **Ardmona** in the **Goulburn Valley** region of Victoria in 2010.

The replicated experiment was conducted on the nectarine cultivar **Summer Flare 34** (SF34) trained to **Tatura Trellis** in a North-South tree row direction. Fruit maturity was assessed by measuring I_{AD} with a DA-Meter (TR, Forlì, Italy). The scope of the study was to (a) evaluate the utility of the I_{AD} as a non-destructive maturity index to follow fruit ripening in the field and define the ideal harvest time and (b) assess the performance of Tatura Trellis as a training system in terms of variability in fruit quality and maturity.

Canopies were divided into three zones of equal size representing the bottom (B), middle (M) and top (T) layers. Thirty fruit in each zone from both the east and west sides of the canopy were tagged. I_{AD} values of the tagged fruit were measured weekly from 83 to 130 days after full bloom (DAFB) where full bloom was 14 October 2010.

The first harvest was performed at 122 DAFB and the main harvest at 130 DAFB. Fruit maturity at the main harvest was measured with the DA-meter on a sample of 100 randomly selected fruit from each zone. Fruit were sorted into three ripening classes that corresponded to the climacteric stage of ethylene production: physiological maturity (PM, high ethylene production, $I_{AD} < 0.6$), commercial maturity (CM, low ethylene production, $0.6 < I_{AD} < 1.3$) and unripe (U, very low or no ethylene production, $I_{AD} > 1.3$). A sub-sample of 20 – 50 fruit from each ripening class were tested for flesh firmness (kgF) and total soluble solids concentration (TSS, °Brix) using standard methods.

Results

The I_{AD} value decreased during the growing season as fruit matured (Table 1). The maturity classes in **Table 1** show that the first harvest was performed at the onset of commercial maturity and the second harvest was at the lower limit of commercial maturity.

The harvests times were defined by the grower using fruit skin colour as the primary harvest maturity index. Based on the I_{AD} values the second harvest could have been advanced 2 – 4 days

allowing for more mature fruit with higher quality and still sufficiently suited for handling and storage. Using the I_{AD} index to monitor fruit maturity provides growers with a powerful decision making tool for timing their harvest.

The narrow curves observed in **Figure 1** show that the fruit were quite uniform in maturity even early in the growing season. The position of fruit in the canopy during growth did not appear to have a major effect on maturity, suggesting the Tatura Trellis system provides even light distribution through the canopy **Figure 2**.

DAFB	I_{AD} Value	% Fruit in ripeness class		
		PM	CM	U
93	1.87	0	0	100
101	1.81	0	2	98
108	1.65	0	5	95
122	1.26 1 st harvest	2	71	27
130	0.78 2 nd harvest	24	74	2

Table 1: Mean I_{AD} values and the percent fruit in each maturity class (PM = physiological maturity, CM = commercial maturity, U = unripe) for nectarine cv Summer Flame 34 fruit measured on the tree at 93, 101, 108, 122 and 130 days after full bloom (DAFB).



The uniformity of fruit maturity during the season in trees trained as Tatura Trellis would allow growers to harvest fruit from the whole canopy without having to differentiate between canopy zones as may be the case with other training systems such as vertical forms or vase. This is probably due to the open shape of the Tatura training system that allows a better exposure of fruit in the inner and bottom part of the canopy to direct sunlight, especially during the last stages of fruit development.

Summer Flame 34 fruit at the same maturity stage at harvest were very consistent in terms of firmness throughout the tree **Table 2**. In general, fruit from the bottom and middle canopy zones had similar firmness independent of their ripening stage while fruit from the top of the canopy showed that less ripe fruit were firmer, probably due to light exposure.

Riper fruit (physiological and commercial maturity) in the top canopy zone had higher soluble solids content (TSS) than unripe fruit from the top zone **Table 3**. There was no significant difference in TSS of fruit from each maturity class in the bottom zone while physiologically mature fruit from the middle zone had higher TSS than immature fruit from the middle zone.

Despite the statistically significant difference in TSS found in our experiment, trees trained in the Tatura Trellis system seemed to have good uniformity in TSS and 97% of fruit at harvest were in the physiological and commercial maturity stages. Furthermore, over 80% of the total fruit harvested had TSS values that were not significantly different. As this is the first work on the DA meter done in Australia it is not known if the correlations between TSS and I_{AD} were cultivar specific or could apply to other varieties. More research is required to validate this.

Conclusion

This study revealed that nectarine trees trained on Tatura Trellis produced fruit with low variability in terms of maturation and TSS. Our results also confirmed previous work (Bonora et al., 2013; Shinya et al., 2013) stating that the DA meter provides a non-destructive index of nectarine fruit maturity that allows for an early assessment of fruit ripening while the fruit is still on the tree.

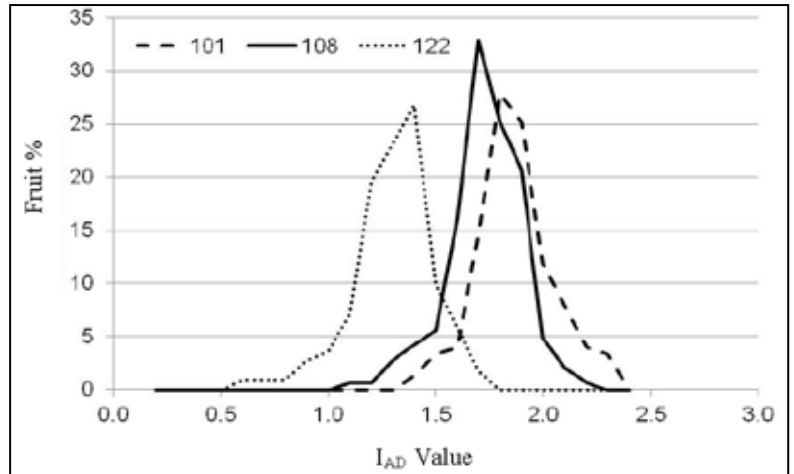


Figure 1: Distribution of Summer Flame 34 nectarine fruit (%) in I_{AD} maturity classes at 101 (dashed line), 108 (solid line) and 122 (dotted line) days after full bloom (DAFB).

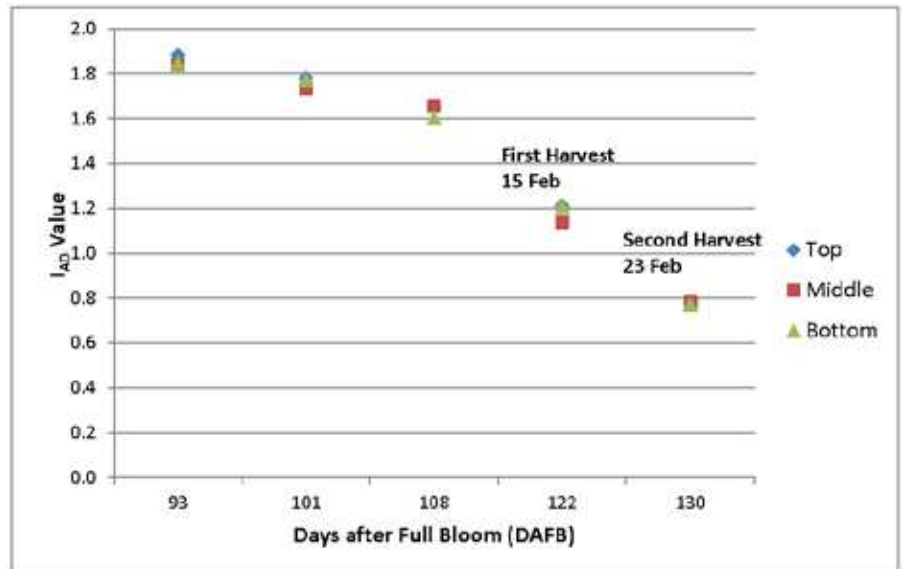


Figure 2: I_{AD} values in Summer Flare 34 fruit trained on Tatura Trellis depending on their position in the tree canopy (Bottom, middle or top) and days after full bloom (DAFB)

I_{AD} Class	FF (kg/cm ²)			TSS (°Brix)		
	B	M	T	B	M	T
PM	6.6 a ^z A ^y	6.5 a A	5.9 a B	12.0 b A	12.3 ab A	13.4 a A
CM	6.7 a A	6.9 a A	6.8 a AB	12.4 b A	12.6 b AB	13.6 a A
U	6.5 a A	6.5 a A	7.1 a A	11.9 a A	11.6 a B	12.3 a B

Table 3: Average of flesh firmness (FF, kg/cm²) and total soluble solids concentration (TSS, °Brix) of fruit in the I_{AD} classes defined as physiological maturity (PM), commercial maturity (CM) and unripe (U) in three tree canopy layers bottom (B), middle (M) and top (T) of the nectarine cultivar Summer Flame 34.

^z= Small letters should be read horizontally and represent values that are significantly different at $p=0.05$.

^y= Capital letters should be read vertically and represent values that are significantly different at $p=0.05$



This is a more practical way of measuring fruit maturity than traditional destructive measures commonly used including flesh firmness, which has been the most reliable measurement until now (Infante, 2012; Reig et al., 2012).

Further investigations are required to accurately define the relationship between I_{AD} and quality traits of fruit such as firmness and TSS as well as to better understand the effect of tree training systems on fruit variability. These objective will be investigated in the newly planted stone fruit field laboratory at DEPI Tatura, VIC.

Acknowledgements

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Exports - Imports ...

MT12009 – Export Market Intelligence

Australian Summerfruit Exports

October to February 2014
4th of 6

Prepared by
Wayne Prowse
Fresh Intelligence Consulting
For
Horticulture Australia and Summerfruit Australia
7th May 2014





Summerfruit Export Summary

- With 95 per cent of the export season completed Summerfruit exports are tracking 0.5% higher by volume and **23 per cent higher by value** reflecting higher returns.
- **Key results – 2013/14 season to date (95.5% of 2013/14 season)**
 - Volume 10,973 MT +0.5%
 - Value \$38.71m +23 %
 - \$ per kg \$3.53 +23% (+.66c)
- Overall peaches and nectarines have 57.8 per cent share of Summerfruit exports, plums accounted for 37.5 per cent and apricots 3.7 per cent
- **Plums** exports increased 35 per cent while **peaches & nectarines** are 14 per cent lower by volume though recording 13 per cent higher value.
- **Apricot** exports gained 11 per cent during the season with strong Middle East growth offset by declines in Hong Kong and Singapore.
- **Hong Kong** accounted for 49 per cent of all summerfruit exports in the 2013/14 season to date followed by United Arab Emirates (20%) and Singapore (11%).
- **Taiwan** did **not** record any trade this season.
- State data shows that **Victoria** accounts for 66% and **New South Wales** 21 per cent of the Summerfruit exports. **Western Australia** has lifted 103 per cent and now tracking with almost 8 per cent share of total exports aided by a positive turn around in plum exports.
- Australian Summerfruit exports were valued at **A\$40.2 million** for the 12 months to March 2014.

CURRENT SEASON INDICATORS

Summerfruit exports by market volume and value – October to March 2014

Exports by Season to date	Volume			Value			\$ per KG						
	Volume KG (season to date)	MAT	MAT	Value \$ Million AUD (season to date)	MAT	MAT	Average price per KG						
FRUIT Type	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Change to LY	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Change to LY	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Apr-13 Mar-14		
TOTAL SUMMERFRUIT	10,922,881	10,973,247	0%	11,494,899	100%	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
Peach & Nectarines	7,580,550	6,549,419	-14%	6,754,123	59%	21.60	24.37	13%	25.09	62%	2.85	3.72	3.72
Plums	2,988,946	4,031,359	35%	4,310,847	38%	8.32	12.35	48%	13.07	32%	2.78	3.06	3.03
Apricot	353,387	392,440	11%	429,930	4%	1.42	1.99	40%	2.06	5%	4.02	5.06	4.79
TOTAL Summerfruit	10,922,881	10,973,247	0.5%	11,494,899	100%	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
			95.5%					96.2%					

source : ABS data, Fresh Intelligence analysis

This data is funded from project MT12009

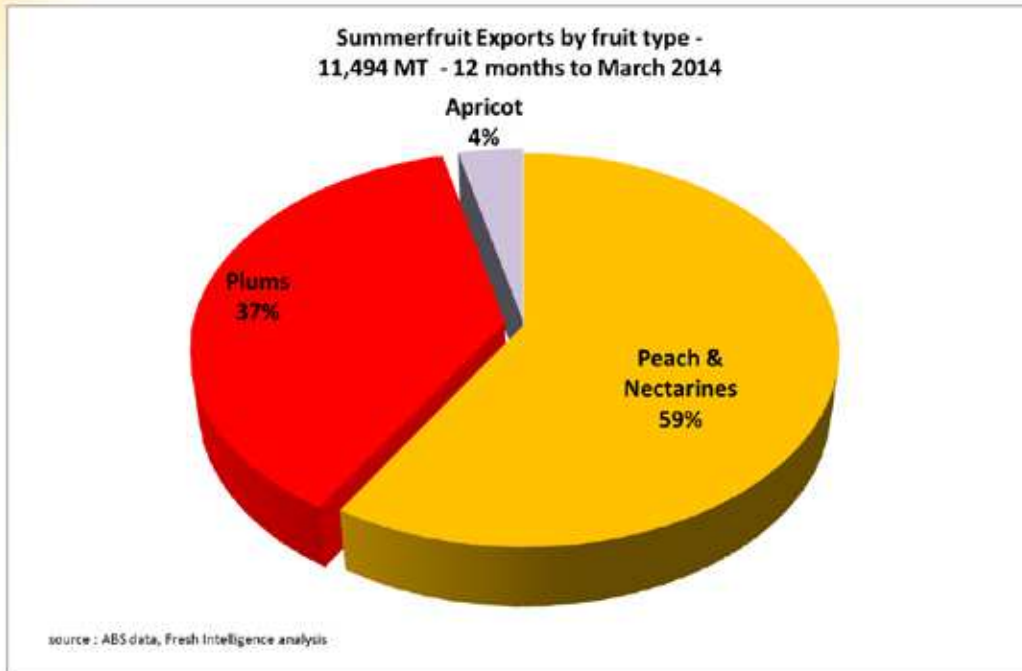
Key results – 2013/14 season to date (95.5% of 2013/14 season)

Volume	10,973 MT	+0.5%
Value	\$38.71m	+23 %
\$ per kg	\$3.53	+23% (+.66c)



LATEST ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

Over the past 12 months nectarines and peaches accounted for 59% of summerfruit exports followed by plums (37%) and apricots (4%).



CURRENT SEASON INDICATORS

Summerfruit exports by state volume and value – October to March 2014

Victoria accounts for 64 per cent of Summerfruit exports on annual basis and dipped 10 per cent below last season. **New South Wales** exports increased 8 per cent season to date and accounts for 21 per cent of annual exports.

Western Australia has more than doubled its exports compared to last season driven by a large improvement in plum exports and now accounts for 8 per cent of national exports.

Exports by State	Volume				Value				\$ per KG			
	Volume KG (season to date)		MAT	MAT	Value \$ Million AUD (season to date)		MAT	MAT	Average price per KG			
State	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Change to LY	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Change to LY	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Apr-13	Mar-14
TOTAL SUMMERFRUIT	10,922,881	10,973,247	0%	11,494,899	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
Victoria	7,811,770	7,003,354	-10%	7,340,620	19.83	23.59	19%	24.43	61%	2.54	3.37	3.33
New South Wales	2,266,989	2,442,537	8%	2,558,326	9.31	10.75	16%	11.29	28%	4.11	4.40	4.41
Western Australia	450,157	917,511	104%	917,557	0.86	2.10	144%	2.10	5%	1.91	2.29	2.29
Queensland	139,895	420,874	201%	451,916	0.41	1.47	258%	1.55	4%	2.94	3.50	3.42
South Australia	246,746	177,650	-28%	177,650	0.89	0.73	-18%	0.73	2%	3.61	4.11	4.11
Tasmania	1,889	2,747	45%	2,747	0.01	0.02	170%	0.02	0%	3.46	6.42	6.42
all other	6,435	8,574	33%	46,083	0.04	0.04	-15%	0.11	0%	6.89	4.99	2.43
TOTAL Summerfruit	10,922,881	10,973,247	0.5%	11,494,899	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
		95.5%				96.2%						

source : ABS data, Fresh intelligence analysis This data is funded from project MT12009



CURRENT SEASON INDICATORS

Summerfruit exports by market YTD are 0.5 per cent below of last year by volume though up 23 per cent by value. Hong Kong is up 1 per cent on volume and 29 per cent on value. Singapore and UAE are lower though other Middle East markets performing well particularly on value. Vietnam has lifted 379 per cent off a small base.

10,973 MT shipped, 0.5% above last year for 95% of the season

Summerfruit Exports by Season to date													
Volume				Value					\$ per KG				
Country	Volume KG (season to date)			MAT	MAT	Value \$ Million AUD (season to date)			MAT	MAT	Average price per KG		
	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14 to LY	Change	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14 to LY	Change	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	Apr-13 Share Mar-14 %	October to Mar-13	October to Mar-14	Apr-13 Mar-14
TOTAL SUMMERFRUIT	10,922,881	10,973,247	0.5%	11,494,899	100%	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
Hong Kong	5,510,749	5,568,779	1%	5,609,805	49%	14.28	18.43	29%	18.54	46%	2.59	3.31	3.30
United Arab Emirates	2,316,352	2,165,538	-7%	2,321,767	20%	8.17	9.09	11%	9.69	24%	3.53	4.20	4.17
Singapore	1,374,337	1,134,442	-17%	1,287,513	11%	3.55	3.50	-1%	3.86	10%	2.59	3.09	3.00
Malaysia	427,334	477,206	12%	510,101	4%	1.43	1.84	29%	1.95	5%	3.35	3.66	3.82
Vietnam	111,670	535,967	379%	554,067	5%	0.36	1.76	386%	1.82	5%	3.24	3.29	3.28
Russia	107,344	156,425	46%	159,765	1%	0.52	0.93	80%	0.94	2%	4.82	5.96	5.90
Saudi Arabia	136,656	164,351	20%	166,691	1%	0.30	0.51	73%	0.52	1%	2.17	3.12	3.10
Qatar	132,422	156,762	18%	160,933	1%	0.28	0.48	72%	0.49	1%	2.10	3.04	3.03
New Caledonia	118,538	131,058	11%	145,558	1%	0.31	0.43	39%	0.47	1%	2.63	3.31	3.26
Kuwait	148,880	148,446	0%	165,066	1%	0.35	0.40	12%	0.43	1%	2.38	2.69	2.62
Indonesia	75,386	80,023	6%	109,945	1%	0.25	0.32	27%	0.39	1%	3.32	3.96	3.53
Bahrain	40,914	65,158	59%	68,136	1%	0.16	0.25	60%	0.26	1%	3.82	3.83	3.81
France	28,702	29,536	3%	29,536	0%	0.20	0.17	-13%	0.17	0%	6.90	5.82	5.82
Canada	12,130	22,570	86%	22,570	0%	0.07	0.10	53%	0.10	0%	5.44	4.48	4.48
Papua New Guinea	23,415	26,432	-13%	22,464	0%	0.08	0.09	9%	0.10	0%	3.45	4.31	4.24
all other	358,052	116,154	-68%	160,982	2%	1.04	0.40	-61%	0.50	2%	2.09	3.46	3.09
TOTAL Nectarines / Peaches	10,922,881	10,973,247	0.5%	11,494,899	100%	31.35	38.71	23%	40.22	100%	2.87	3.53	3.50
			95.5%					96.2%					

source : ABS data, Fresh Intelligence analysis

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This report is intended for use by the Australian Summerfruit industry to assist in understanding and measuring export performance

The information is provided as part of MT12009 Export Market Intelligence project.

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Publication Details ...

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