



Australian

STONEFRUIT GROWER

incorporating the

Low Chill Stonefruit Grower

November 2011

... Issue No. 3/11

'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.



2011-2012 Board

Ian McAlister (Chair)

PO Box 430
Lake Boga VIC 3584
Phone: 03 5037 2730
Fax: 03 5057 2730
Mobile: 0427 641 323
chair@summerfruit.com.au

Fred Baronio (Deputy Chair)

PO Box 76
The Summit QLD 4377
Phone: 07 4683 2286
Fax: 07 4683 2466
Mobile: 0427 132 456
fredbaronio@summerfruit.com.au

Andrew Smith

182 Baileys Road
Wangaratta VIC 3678
Phone: 03 5725 7339
Fax: 03 5725 7335
Mobile: 0427 257 339
andrewsmith@summerfruit.com.au

Adrian Conti

482 Campbell Road
Cobram VIC 3644
Fax: 03 5872 2915
Mobile: 0418 302 873
adrianconti@summerfruit.com.au

Mike Oakley

133-137 Brown Mountain Road
Campania TAS 7026
Phone: 03 6260 4463
Fax: 03 6260 4455
Mobile: 0438 271 848
mikeoakley@summerfruit.com.au

Mark Wilkinson

Sunpick Orchards
291 Sultana Rd East
Maida Vale 6057 WA
Mobile: 0427 989 121
sunpick@highway1.com.au

Raymond Hick

Heavenly Valley Farms
PO Box 188
Bangalow NSW 2479
Mobile: 0408 477 959
heavenlyvalleyfarms@gmail.com



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





LOW CHILL AUSTRALIA INC.

ABN 283 812 712 44

2010-2011 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Ray Hick

P: 02 6687 2044, F: 02 6687 0712, M: 0408 477 959

E: president@lowchillaustralia.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT

Ross Stuhmcke

P: 07 5462 5202, F: 07 5462 5333, M: 0413 179 133

E: vice.president@lowchillaustralia.com.au

SECRETARY

Greg Nash

P: 02 6687 1756, M: 0418 440 545

E: secretary@lowchillaustralia.com.au

TREASURER

Greg Foster

P: 02 6687 1295, M: 0407 871 756

E: treasurer@lowchillaustralia.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mark Napper

P: 02 9997 6251, M: 0413 007 197

E: mark.napper@lowchillaustralia.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Geoff Prior

P: 02 6687 1768, F: 02 6687 1768, M: 0427 213 570

E: geoff.prior@lowchillaustralia.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Gordon Schultz

P: 02 6687 1391, F: 02 6687 1391, M: 0437 952 727

E: gordon.schultz@lowchillaustralia.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Pat Wibaux

P: 07 5442 1403, F: 07 5442 2489, M: 0419 026 086

E: pat.wibaux@lowchillaustralia.com.au

CONTACTS -

Low Chill Australia Inc.

Office Address:

PO Box 188, BANGALOW NSW 2479

Phone: (02) 6687 2044

Mobile: 0408 477 959

Fax: (02) 6687 0712

Email: president@lowchillaustralia.com.au

Website: www.lowchillaustralia.com.au

Communications Manager:

PO Box 772, HERVEY BAY QLD 4655

Phone: (07) 4128 0585

Mobile: 0407 589 445

Email: cm@lowchillaustralia.com.au

CONTACTS -



Summerfruit Australia Ltd - ACN 105 962 196

John Moore – CEO

8/452 Swift Street, Albury NSW 2640

Ph: 02 6041 6641, Mobile: 0419 305 901,

Fax: 02 6021 0011

Email: ceo@summerfruit.com.au

Website: www.summerfruit.com.au

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Summerfruit Information –

2011-2012 Board -	Page 2
Contacts -	Page 3
Chair's Report -	Page 7
Levy Ballots Results -	Page 9
From the Summerfruit CEO -	Page 11
Industry Christmas Message -	Page 12

Low Chill Australia Information -

2011-2011 Committee -	Page 3
Contacts -	Page 3
From LCA President -	Page 5
LCA Christmas Message -	Page 6
LCA Membership Form -	Page 19
Annual General Meeting Notice -	Page 30

Industry Information –

Galaxy Farms -	Page 4
Amcor -	Page 8
National Harvest -	Page 10
Retain® – How to use it -	Page 13
ParaMite® for long-lasting control of mites -	Page 16

Low Chill Stonefruit Research –

New Varieties for testing -	Page 14
-----------------------------	---------

Phillip Wilk's Seasonal Update –

2011-2012 Seasonal Outlook and Varietal Performance -	Page 17
---	---------

Technical Information –

Looking after your trees after harvest -	Page 20
--	---------

News –

2012 Australian Year of the Farmer launched -	Page 26
---	---------

Industry Information –

Lebaycid (fenthion) Supply Situation -	Page 28
--	---------

PUBLICATION DETAILS –

Advertising Rates & Deadlines -	Page 31
Editor's Christmas Message -	Page 31

Cover Photo - supplied by Summerfruit Australia



For your Sales and Marketing needs this coming season look to a single point, whole of crop sales team you can trust.



Who is Galaxy Farms?

We are Galaxy Farms... a 100% Australian owned and operated wholesale fruit marketing and distribution company. Whether it is Retail, Wholesale or Export Galaxy Farms has outlets for your entire crop.

We are fresh produce marketing specialists and our whole team brings with them expertise and a wealth of knowledge and experience. Galaxy Farms is one of the largest Stone Fruit providers in Australia with a team dedicated to the Low Chill Stone Fruit season.

As a Sales and Marketing team we manage the critical path for your entire product distribution, from product development and orchard management through to marketing, national supply chain relationships and distribution.

We market, sell and distribute premium quality fruits, providing the best produce for our customers and a valuable service for our growers. Stonefruit is our specialty, though with our significant growth in the past few years we also manage growers of mangoes, citrus, apples, pears and avocados.



We deliver our growers the most simple and effective process from farm to consumer.



We focus on the sale and distribution of your crop, so you can focus on what you do best – growing!



We deliver the highest quality fresh produce to our retailers and wholesalers... you can trust in every order we fill!

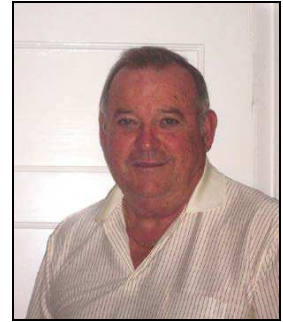
www.galaxyfarms.com.au

Phone (03) 9540 3310

admin@galaxyfarms.com.au



From the LCA President – Raymond Hick



By now all growers will be into the rigors of the 2011 season. The weather in the Northern New South Wales area has been very much a challenge. Continuous rain and cloudy skies have resulted in the sugar levels being much lower than during a normal dry sunny season. The supermarkets have just accepted this and lowered their brix levels so at least some of our product can be accepted.

Control of QFF issues ...

APVMA has removed dimethoate from our list of chemicals to use for the control of QFF. Fenthion is under review at present and the major issue is that unacceptable residue levels remain in stone-fruit, particularly peaches, and this is likely to have the effect that the withholding period will be increased to 21 days. That is if the chemical is able to be maintained within industry. With this increased withholding period, it would be necessary to supplement our control measures with other chemicals such as Trichlorfon - brand names Lepidex 500 and Dipterex 500 SL.

I recently issued details of the use and application rates. For those who did not receive it the application rate is 1st spray 250ml/100ltrs and subsequent sprays 125ml/100ltrs. Withholding period 2 days and apply every 7 to 10 days. It is my belief that it will become increasingly difficult for us to use chemicals as we have in the past. This is even more apparent in the present political environment when the Advisor to the Federal Minister for Agriculture stated that Chemicals and Agriculture don't mix. **Great point of view isn't it!!!**

Stone-fruit Levy ...

The recent vote on increasing the stone-fruit levy did not pass. 304 growers registered to vote yet only 213 returned the voting paper.

**RESULTS - 66% Against the R & D Levy
73% Against Marketing
62% Against funding the PHA Levy**

This is very disappointing as the industry has never faced such issues as we are currently facing. The SAL Board had proposed to set aside for QFF research \$650,000. This will not happen as there will be no additional funds. No-one or body is going to solve our problem with QFF and the gradual reduction in the available chemicals. We as an industry have to fund this research. I will be interested to see which of the large growers who were opposed to the increase approach this issue.

As the Supermarkets have decreed this year that they will not accept count 48 in peaches and nectarines, additional marketing money would have come in handy to try and move this additional fruit. I would hate to be in Swan Hill and Cobram where over 100,000 snow angel peaches have been planted and the majority of the size will be under supermarket specs. Yet this is an area that vehemently opposed the increase in marketing levies. **Good luck!**

The disturbing point is that growers voted against funding the PHA Levy. We are not able to pay this levy out of our stone-fruit levies and the vote was to enable us to allocate specific funds from the increase to fund this. I am sure all will be familiar with the situation in Emerald when all the citrus had to be removed and the great financial loss to the industry. This now means that under our existing partnership agreement, SAL can't pay the levy so growers will be responsible to pay the expenses incurred in a major outbreak. This could be millions of dollars.

I only hope that you all understand what you have voted for.



The Board of SAL, of which I am a member, travelled at our cost to hold meetings all over the growing regions. A meeting was held in Bangalow and one grower turned up. This confirmed to me that no one really cares what happens to our industry and it is not surprising that the proposed levy increase failed.

The Board will now need to set a new direction that does not place any increase in our activities in R & D and Marketing. What limited funds we have will be used to investigate measures to control QFF and look to life after most of the current chemicals have been withdrawn.

Promotion ...

Greg Nash (LCA Secretary) and myself recently attended the Lismore Show and set up a stand in the food pavilion showcasing Low Chill Australia's stone fruit. It was still hard to believe the number of local people who didn't realise we grow peaches and nectarines locally. If we are to do this in the future we need to have some appropriate advertising material. Personally I still have problems with our organization's name Low Chill as it does not tell people what we do. I see myself as a peach grower who produces early fruit not a low chill grower. **Only my personal opinion.**

Fay Hick promotes Low Chill Stonefruit at the Lismore Show >



The AGM of LCA will be held in December and the exact date will be advised in the near future. I would ask growers to attend and give direction to the new committee on the direction you wish your industry to take.

Regards

Ray Hick – President –



On behalf of the Low Chill Australia Inc. Committee, I wish to convey our appreciation for the support received during the past year.

Also, I wish to convey to you the very, very best for the coming Festive Season.

Your Committee looks forward to a productive and prosperous 2012 for all those involved in the Low Chill Stonefruit Industry.

Kindest regards,

Ray Hick - President





Chair's Report ...



Ray has given a very detailed account of the levy ballot. The situation the board now finds itself in is, to put it bluntly, untenable. The questions that have to be answered now are both complex and many.

Is the result a massive show of no confidence in the board's ability?

Did the growing community just see a raised levy as just another input cost in a financial environment that is getting increasing more difficult day by day?

Or, as one grower who never attended any of the road show meetings even told me personally, that we never sold the concept properly?

Biggest Concern ...

The biggest concern to me personally was the **no vote** on taking the Plant Health Australia subscription directly from the existing levy. The last three years we have had to raise outside funds. By not being able to pay this subscription, effectively every stone fruit grower in the country will be liable to pay for a government cleanup if there is an exotic incursion. And, if they happen to be in the incursion area and have their orchard bulldozed, would not be able to claim compensation.

The **no vote** on this issue leaves the board with **no alternative** than to not pay your insurance policy that is guaranteed under the some thirty odd growing industries that is PHA – or do you expect your elected representatives to pay the policy for you?

Remember a good board should only do what is dictated by its shareholders.

Marketing ...

The massive 73% no vote on marketing completely astounds me. Here we are in the middle of November and the major chains have already taken trays off the shelf. Nectarines are on special at \$3.40 a kilo gross price for growers compared to \$6.00 this time last year. Without promotion to increase per capita head consumption by promoting the health benefits of eating our product, net returns well below two dollars a kilo will be here for a long time to come.

If you believe you can make money at this price then well and good.

The board firmly believes we were wasting our time trying to promote a \$250 million industry with three hundred thousand dollars. When you consider that transport costs have raised considerably along with increased labour and packaging costs, the bottom line in most growers' incomes is being constantly eroded.

Research ...

The problems we have endured with the loss of chemicals this season to deal with the fruit fly problem will only escalate as several of the replacement chemicals we are currently using are on the AVPMA hit list.

Again, the need for research is more critical than ever but the board will not have the resources necessary to carry out any new research.

Export ...

Summerfruit Australia's main objective has been to open export markets for our growers. I have stated many times that market access is time onerous and requires large amounts of scientific research to enable success. In the past



this time has been provided totally voluntary by board members but those days are over. Being away from your own business for a week at a time is too much to expect from any individual.

The lack of research funds will, I think, severely curtail our desire to move product off shore. With the massive replanting that is being done in most growing areas (you can't buy a tree without waiting two years) the price domestically will move in only one direction.

The board has no option but cut expenditure even further and prioritise what funds are left.

Finally ...

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone the best for the festive season and I hope your harvest lives up to your expectation.

Cheers

Ian McAlister – SAL Chair



Amcor, proudly supporting the Australian Stone Fruit Industry

Amcor is a proud supplier of quality corrugated packaging and supply chain solutions to the Australian Stone Fruit Industry with a dedicated team focused on creating extra value and exceeding customer expectations. Amcor provides innovative packaging solutions, ensuring that cartons are available to meet your packing requirements as well as market and retail footprints.

Amcor's high quality stone fruit packaging products include;

- Modular 6PL trays
- One touch P84 single layer and bulk trays
- SureFresh® and Photo SureFresh® cartons
- High strength corrugated cardboard including Xitex®
- Custom designed one and two piece cartons

1300 1 AMCOR www.amcor.com





Results released by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Returned ballots were counted on 25th October 2011

Question 1.	YES	NO	INVALID	TOTAL	SWING%
R& D levy to be set at \$0.0098/kg	73	138	2	213	66% -
Question 2.					
Marketing levy be set at \$0.02/kg	58	153	2	213	73% -
Question 3.					
PHA subscription levy					
Be set at \$0.0002/kg	82	129	2	213	62% -

A total of 304 registrations to vote were recorded and duly sent a ballot paper.

91 registrant's failed to return ballot papers. Or 29.93% not returned

7 ballots were incorrectly returned (not signed as per AEC instructions)

213 ballots were counted, 2 ballots were deemed invalid (incorrectly completed)

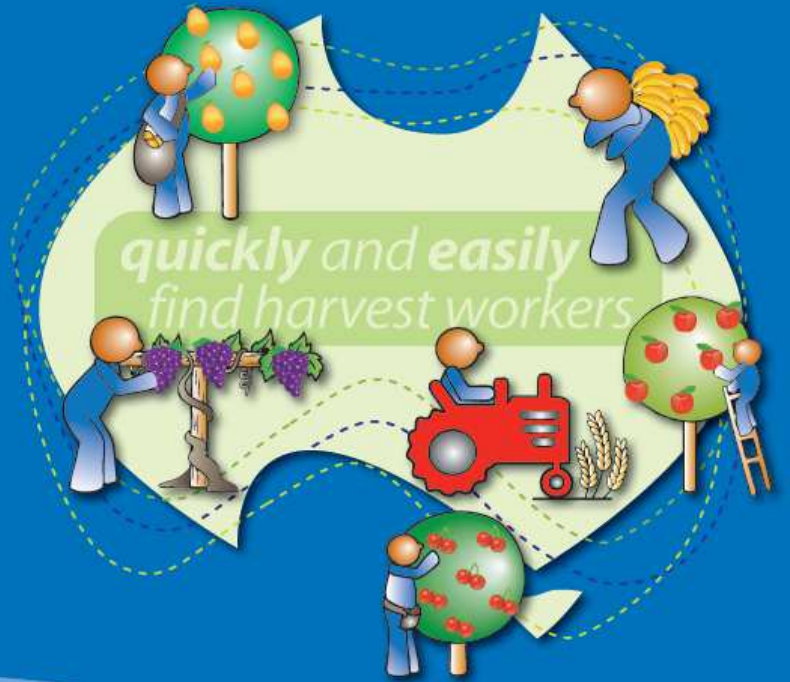
The Summerfruit Board have noted the will of levy payers, however the Board express concern at the negative vote for the Plant Health Australia annual subscription renewal not to be paid from Industry R&D levies. In the longer term the Board caution Industry that there will be a greater degree of instability as a result of the overall levy vote.

Ian McAlister,
Chair Summerfruit Australia Ltd
28th October 2011

8/452 Swift Street, Albury NSW 2640
Tel: 02 60416641 Fax: 02 6021 0011
E-mail: ceo@summerfruit.com.au web: summerfruit.com.au



The quick and easy way to find harvest workers



1800 062 332
www.harvesttrail.gov.au



Spring signals the commencement of the stonefruit picking season in Australia and there is little doubt that good harvest management is crucial when producing fruit for market. The hectic harvest schedule presents many challenges including the task of recruitment. Fortunately, help is at hand from the National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS).

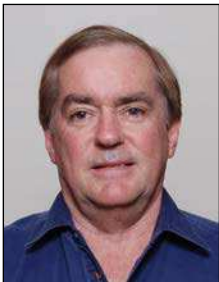
The service has been assisting Australian growers to source workers since 2003 and during this time has developed a loyal following from growers and jobseekers alike.

At peak harvest times the NHLIS call centre receives over 2000 calls per week from itinerant workers who are actively seeking work on Australian horticultural properties. Workers include Australian citizens, grey nomads and international backpackers who offer a diverse range of skills and industry experience.

It costs nothing to register your vacancies with the NHLIS and there are many benefits with vacancies being filled almost immediately.



From the Summerfruit CEO ...



CEO REPORT ...

John Moore – CEO Summerfruit Australia Ltd.

The recent APVMA suspension of Dimethoate has triggered a rapid introduction of new chemical permit registrations and importantly a swift move by State regulators to amend ICA's that were underwritten with Dimethoate. Trichlorfon is the substitute however, as you are all aware, this chemical is listed for eventual review by the APVMA. This could be within 3 years.

The IAC has an Industry working group of eminent researchers and chemical experts to examine a series of measures that will include a combination of applications of Fenthion together with Maldison and Trichlorfon. Tests will be conducted on lower application rates in field for Fenthion. Residue levels and efficacy levels will be monitored. Lower rate usage of Dimethoate as a postharvest dip will be investigated. Again, residue and efficacy need to be reviewed and address OH&S environmental issues that also concern the APVMA with all chemicals. A change to use patterns and spray combinations may be the answer.

Recently, Australian Horticultural Industries were well represented at Asia Fruit logistica in Hong Kong held from 7 to 9 September 2011. Strong interest was evident from importers, traders and supermarket chains from all parts of Asia, India & Middle Eastern Gulf countries.

The information pack (either simple Chinese or English) was handed out to all enquiries and Contained information on the Australian stonefruit industry. The information included a detailed summary of national growing locations, varieties and the availability schedule of these varieties, fruit quality information and storage tips, the natural clean and green message, Australian government regulations for export conditions and a comprehensive ordering guideline in order to step the process for prospective buyers. Further additional information was a promotional video DVD with Chinese mandarin sub-titles.



A key part of the Summerfruit industry's strategic plan is market access for China. In the final closing address at the recent Sino-Australia horticultural forum held in Melbourne on 19 and 20 April 2011, the general secretary of China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau of the Peoples Republic of China (CIQ) stated that any Industry with aspirations for market access in China should attend Trade Fairs and Expos scheduled in October and November 2011. Such attendance would signal to the authorities genuine intentions. While Summerfruit are one of the three remaining fruits seeking market access to China in a concurrent program managed by the Australian and Chinese Governments, Summerfruit are often seen as the lesser of the three.

The Australian Summerfruit Industry has expanded quite rapidly over the past decade with many new plantings in all states of Australia. Part of the investment is based on the ability for Australian Summerfruit to be exported to the northern hemisphere at a time when there is no Summerfruit production within those regions. If the Australian domestic market reaches and maintains the anticipated level of 110,000tonnes per annum, the Australian domestic



market will not be able to cope. As a result, having all available International markets open will be valuable to the Industry.

Market Access to China alone will have an advantage to all Australian Summerfruit producers and give further strength to stabilize the Australian Summerfruit Industry. In addition, Australian Summerfruit's are not seen as a competitor with Chinese Summerfruit as they are counter seasonal. This is an important message that the Industry continues to build on. In fact in earlier visit's to China by SAL delegates indications are that there are strong opportunities for reciprocal trade, research and extension, and business collaboration.

The Shanghai FruVeg Expo 20 to 22 October was well positioned for central and northern Chinese traders to visit the Expo. Trade Shows have been traditionally held in the southern region of China and cater specifically for the traders linked to the Guangzhou hub. This Shanghai Expo is the first held specifically focusing on horticultural products within this region and was well attended with 162 stands showcasing fruit and vegetables.

Organisers have indicated that over 5,000 people attended and the Summerfruit stand was swamped with genuine enquiries for sourcing seasonal fruit this year. In keeping with the comments made by Chinese CIQ officials at the Melbourne forum, section chiefs from Shanghai Pudong CIQ officials visited the Summerfruit stand to acknowledge our presence. In Nanning, Peoples Republic of China, seven (7) Horticultural Industries, inclusive of Summerfruit, will showcase fruit and tastings to visitors to the trade fair being held from the 4 to 6 November.

For any further assistance, please contact

John Moore - CEO, Summerfruit Australia Ltd.

Ph: 0419 305 901

Email: ceo@summerfruit.com.au

8/452 Swift St., Albury NSW 2640

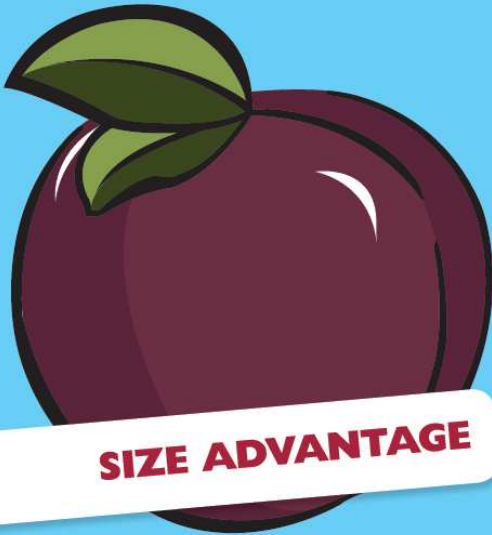




FIRMER FRUIT



HARVEST MANAGEMENT



SIZE ADVANTAGE



BETTER STORAGE



LONGER LASTING FRUIT

ReTain[®]

How do you use it?



SUMITOMO CHEMICAL

www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

ReTain[®] is a registered trademark of Valent BioSciences Corporation, Libertyville, IL, USA.



Low Chill Stonefruit Research ...

White-flesh peach and yellow-flesh nectarine for testing in 2011-2012

Bruce Topp, Phillip Wilk, Dougal Russell and Grant Bignell
Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI)
NSW Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI)
Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEEDI)

Two new low-chill nectarine and peach selections are being offered for large-scale test in 2011-2012 as part of the Horticulture Australia funded low-chill breeding project. One is a non-melting yellow flesh nectarine and the other is a white melting flesh peach. Both selections have been observed fruiting at Maroochy Research Station at Nambour, Queensland and on grower trials in NSW and Queensland.

Q58-70 nectarine produces yellow, non-melting flesh fruit that ripen early. At Coopers Shoot it has performed well the past two seasons. It ripened with or just after SunWright in 2010 and about 10 days before SunWright in 2011. It averaged about a 45 count tray size. Flesh is firm and with a balance of sugar and acid. Fruit are rounder and more uniform in shape than SunWright and have no splitstone. It requires about 200 hours of chilling to break dormancy.

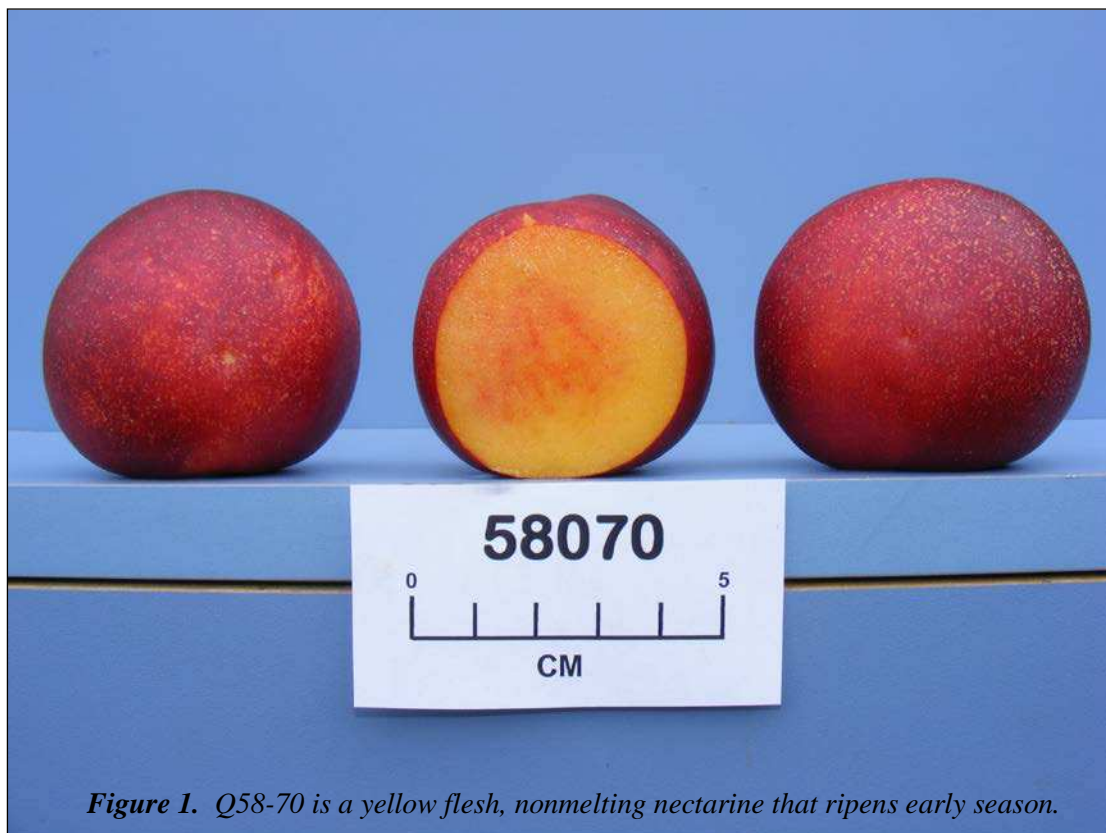


Figure 1. Q58-70 is a yellow flesh, nonmelting nectarine that ripens early season.



Q84-30 peach produces white flesh melting peaches that ripen about 2-3 weeks after Tropic Beauty, about 105 days after bloom. Fruit are large (up to 200g), round, 70% light red blush covering skin, flesh is melting and firm and juicy with balanced sugar and acid flavour, semi-freestone. Tree is vigorous and productive with chilling of 200 chill units. Trees of this selection were distributed for small-scale grower test in 2008.



Figure 2. Q84-30 is a white flesh, melting peach that ripens after and overlaps with Tropic Beauty.

The large-scale testing arrangements are the same as for previous years and will require a testing fee of \$6.60 per tree and a minimum of 100 trees. Growers who are interested in testing any of these selections should contact Bruce Topp at the Maroochy Research Station for full details on the testing scheme on phone 07 54535973 or fax 07 54535901 or email b.topp@uq.edu.au.

This project is facilitated by Horticulture Australia Limited. It is part funded by voluntary contributions from Low Chill Australia Inc. The Australian Government provides matched funding for all HAL's R&D activities.

CHECK OUT THE LOW CHILL AUSTRALIA INC. WEBSITE

www.lowchillaustralia.com.au

The Taste of Spring



Home About Us Update 2006 Growers Supporters News Contacts Springfruit



**Make sure
these mite eggs
never grow up**

ParaMite®

**FOR LONG-LASTING CONTROL
OF MITES**



SUMITOMO CHEMICAL

www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

ParaMite® is a registered trademark of Sumitomo Chemical Co. Limited Japan.



Phillip Wilk's Low Chill Stonefruit Seasonal Update ...



2011/2012 ... Seasonal Outlook and Varietal Performance

General seasonal outlook ...

A very odd year with sufficient early chill for all low chill varieties but it remained very cool until mid-September due to cloudy overcast days and many early varieties just refused to size and grow. This resulted in a very late season with many early season varieties never sizing up and harvesting at the same time as mid-season varieties.

All varieties were approximately 2 weeks behind usual harvest time

This resulted in a very slow start to the season then a mass of fruit hitting the market all at one time. This resulted in very good returns right up until mid-October for good sized fruit (\$36/tray) as supply was short. The volume of fruit this season is well above average (300,000 trays) and the quality fruit especially later in the season was excellent.

Unfortunately the market crashed in November when many growers still had the bulk of their fruit ready to harvest. Trays of nectarines and peaches were competing on the market floor with high chill produce with a much lower production cost at around \$15.00-\$18.00/tray.

Varieties that showed promise in 2011 ...

UF Sun

A yellow non melting flesh peach variety. Has vigorous vegetative growth. Shape size and colour OK but many small fruit shed in mid-September. This variety needs Paclobutrazol (Austar, Cultar) to manage properly (4mls twice per year) as the tree is too vigorous on fertile soils.

First harvest at Coopers Shoot (250 CU) last week in September 2011. This variety gives excellent returns but some fruit develops off flavours in the first few years which the tree grows out of after year four. Markets will reject this variety if growers send fruit that has an orange tinge (similar to UF Sun colouring). This fruit has not pollinated properly and when the fruit is cut open the seed is clear or black inside.

Polar Light

This white, low acid, non-melting flesh, full red nectarine has been widely planted in both high and low chill regions. Harvest in northern NSW begins in early October about the same time as White satin (90-3) but being a non-melting variety is easier and cheaper to manage. Flavour can be bland if harvested too early. Knowing when to pick fruit can be an issue due to its full red colour during early fruit development. This variety has a 5% production royalty attached.

Richen White

A white, melting flesh nectarine that is harvested in early to mid-October after White Satin and similar timing to Sun Wright yellow flesh nectarine. If managed with Retain®, this public variety has proved to be reliable in most seasons. It has a good balanced flavour with TSS% usually around 10-11%.

Oz Delight and Oz Desire

Oz Delight White non melting peach harvested 17th November at Bangalow too late in season but beautiful sized fruit (all 23-25 in P84 liners).

Oz Desire Yellow non melting nectarine 17th November harvest. Both varieties have large size, good colour with great balanced flavour except they are generally too late in the season for low chill growers but would probably suit medium to high chill regions.



Maroochy varieties showing promise

Q58-70 yellow-flesh, non-melting nectarine. It ripens late September or early October and has performed well at Coopers Shoot. This variety could be a useful Sunwright replacement for low chill regions.

Q32-59 yellow melting flesh nectarine. This variety could also be a replacement for SunWright yellow flesh nectarines in low chill regions.

Q 70-53 yellow non-melting flesh nectarine for low chill regions (Alstonville) fruit small to medium, late Sept and early October ripening. Average brix level ranging from 11 to 13% and average size of 73 to 75 mm.

Q84-30 white-flesh, melting peach. It is a white flesh version of Tropic Beauty.

ANFIC varieties

97-47 non melting yellow peach harvested 17th November

98-18 white non melting peach harvested 17th November

Both these varieties produced excellent fruit over the last two seasons but are too late for low chill regions but they may suit medium to high chill regions

Issues affecting production in 2011

Overall the main issue affecting both high and low chill growers this season was the suspension of *Dimethoate* as a fruit fly control for stone fruit and the ongoing review of *Fenthion*.

Low chill growers were advised not to rely on *Dimethoate* this season for Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) control and most growers used *Fenthion* for interstate fruit movements.

Unfortunately, *stocks of Fenthion Australia wide were in short supply as both high and low chill growers moved away from Dimethoate as an option.*

An number of alternative chemicals including *Trichlorfon* and *Maldison*, which were already registered for QFF in a number of other industries, were incorporated into the protocol for growers already using or wanting to use ICA21. (*see article this edition*)

The APVMA will release restrictions on *Fenthion* use for stone fruit in 2012 which may put further pressure on stone fruit growers.

Brown Rot/Blossom Blight has again been a problem in many orchards this season even in orchards where growers that are scrupulously clean and vigilant about picking up fallen fruit during the harvest period. Many of these experienced growers have found it difficult again this season to manage this disease with existing cover sprays close to harvest and current management practices.

An industry workshop for early 2012 is proposed to flesh out practices and further chemical registrations that are needed to minimise the impact of this disease on stone fruit.

Phillip Wilk

NSW Department of Primary Industries



Stone fruit growers at the Bangalow Show before the judging of the stone fruit section



LCA Membership Form ...

LOW-CHILL AUSTRALIA Inc.

ABN No. 283 812 712 44

Office Address: PO Box 188, BANGALOW NSW 2479
 Phone: (02) 6687 2044; Mobile: 0408 477 959; Fax: (02) 6687 0712
 Email: president@lowchillaustralia.com.au; Website: www.lowchillaustralia.com.au
Communications Manager: PO Box 772, HERVEY BAY QLD 4655
 Phone: (07) 4128 0585; Mobile: 0407 589 445 ; Email: cm@lowchillaustralia.com.au

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2011/2012

Dear Secretary,

I wish to apply for membership of Low-Chill Australia Inc. I agree to be bound by the LCA Articles of Association and Rules and By-Laws of the association. Below are my contact details.

As we are updating our records, please complete the following contact details when applying for membership:
PLEASE PRINT DETAILS SIGN AND RETURN FORM

Name: Company Name:

ABN: Postal Address:

Town / City: State: Post Code: Ph:

Mobile: Fax: Email:

(PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP BOX)

Website: Grower / Researcher (\$110.00) Corporate (\$275.00)

Annual membership is on a financial year basis from 1st July to 30th June. Annual Membership for growers and researchers is \$110.00 (including GST). Annual Membership for corporate members is \$275.00 (including GST).

The membership fee for growers and researchers comprises \$50 membership fee, \$50 devoted to research and development, plus \$10 GST. The Corporate membership fee comprises \$50 membership fee, \$100 devoted to research and development, \$100 advertising fee for Low Chill News, plus \$25 GST.

Membership Payment Details –

BY CHEQUE - Please make Cheque Payable to **Low Chill Australia Inc.**

Post Cheque and this Form to -

Greg Foster, Treasurer, L.C.A.

38 Brooklet Road, Newrybar NSW 2479 OR

BY 'ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER' –

Account - Low Chill Australia Inc.

Bank - Westpac

Branch - Ballina, NSW

BSB - 032 591

Account No. - 14 8934

Note: Please advise of EFT payment by email to – treasurer@lowchillaustralia.com.au.

When paying by EFT - **FAX THIS COMPLETED FORM to 02 6687 2406 or SCAN and EMAIL to treasurer@lowchillaustralia.com.au**

Name (please print):

Signature: Date:/...../.....



Low Chill Technical Information ...

Looking after your trees after harvest

Dr. A. P. George and R. J. Nissen

Summer pruning ...

Summer prune two to three weeks after harvest. With early varieties, do this before mid-January and again in February if need to avoid any delays in flowering in the following season. The aim of summer pruning is to allow light to penetrate the tree. This ensures good flower bud development and induces the growth of new fruiting wood close to the leaders for the next season.

At summer pruning

- Remove strong water shoots in the tree centre. Leave weak lateral growth to protect limbs from sunburn.
- Top trees to framework height or reaching height for open vase.
- Remove some laterals if growth is excessive.
- Do not allow old fruiting wood in the body of the tree to develop into heavy branches. Where potentially fruitful new laterals have been produced along an old lateral, remove wood outside the selected new growth (Figure 1). Where there is no new growth, prune the old spent wood to a stub carrying two or three buds. These generate growth in the following few months and bear fruit the next season.
- Remove old fruit and dead shoots.
- Remove all growth, including suckers, within 500 mm of the ground.



Figure 1. How to summer-prune laterals

Post harvest topping

Post harvest topping differs from summer pruning in that it involves pruning the tree back to the main scaffold branches. Post harvest topping has been used as a management tool to control tree size in low chill stonefruit (Crocker *et al.* 1982). Higher yields than can be expected with standard systems can be achieved. Young and Crocker (1982) recorded yields of 32 t/hectare with post harvest topped Flordagold. Post harvest topping can increase fruit size as much as 15%.

However, the major disadvantage with post harvest topping is the strong compensatory regrowth which follows topping. Due to delayed floral bud differentiation, flowering and subsequently fruit maturity may be delayed. In studies conducted in Australia and Florida (McDermott *et al.* 1987) the period of delay is not exceptionally great, usually between 5 - 12 days. George *et al.* (1992) were able to show that paclobutrazol can control compensatory regrowth normally associated with severely post - harvest topped trees. Limited observational studies indicate that if post harvest topping is carried out by early summer then trees will have sufficient time to regenerate new fruiting wood without delay in flowering or fruiting in the following season.



Post-harvest-topping techniques would be suitable to use with very early maturing varieties and for trees that are planted at higher densities than normal. It would also be an ideal technique to use in regions with a distinct wet season. In these regions leaf surface area on the tree may be severely reduced as a consequence of strong wind and leaf diseases. Post-harvest topping will result in regeneration of new, healthy leaf that will be more resistant to leaf drop.

Fertilising mature trees

Stonefruit remove significant quantities of the major elements N and K and the minor elements B and Zn. Whilst it is desirable to base fertiliser rates on the amounts of nutrients removed by the crop (Figure 2) many other factors must be taken into account to determine the correct quantities of nutrients to apply.

The amount of fertiliser applied to an orchard needs to be based on these factors:

- the amount of nutrients removed from the orchard in fruit, leaves and prunings;
- the amount of nutrients leached from the soil or washed from the soil surface;
- the amount of nutrient unavailable in the soil due to fixation;
- recent leaf and soil analysis data;
- visual leaf nutrient symptoms and tree growth.

Consequently the rates of nutrients to apply for different soil types, locations/regions may vary by a factor of up to 2-3 fold; thus both leaf and soil nutrient analyses are the most essential tools for adjusting fertiliser rates. Do a leaf and soil analysis at the end of year 2 and then every year at about two weeks after harvest.

To work out what fertilisers need to be applied, simply compare your leaf and soil analysis results with these standards. Only apply nutrients where your leaf and soil levels need to be adjusted to bring them into line with the standards. In fertile soils, nitrogen is likely to be the only nutrient that needs to be added on an annual basis. In less fertile sandy soils, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium, as well as nitrogen, may need regular adjustment.

Having worked out which nutrients need adjustment, rates of fertiliser use are best based on the philosophy of replacing those nutrients removed in the fruit, leaves and prunings. This has been calculated for crops of varying yield and adjusted to take account of pruning and nutrient losses from soil leaching. As an example, a broad program of fertiliser use for a crop yielding 25 tonnes per hectare is shown in Table 3. The figures assume full nutrient replacement is required. In reality, nitrogen may be the only nutrient required.

Nutrient leaching losses and fixation

Heavy rainfall, excessive irrigation and runoff can leach valuable nutrients from the soil. Normally, leaching is greatest in soils that are light in texture with little clay and low in organic matter (Table 1). Because soil type and weather conditions vary so much, it is difficult to assess with any confidence how much nutrient loss is suffered due to leaching. The following losses can occur:

- 30-70% of applied nitrogen and potassium lost by leaching;
- 50-80% of the phosphorus applied could become unavailable to plants by fixing or washed away by runoff.

The figure for phosphorus may be low and will be dependent on soil type. In a podzolic soil 75% of applied phosphorus may become unavailable to plants, while in krasnozems, 95% could become unavailable. Stonefruit phosphorus requirements are low and the probability of a deficiency occurring is remote. Incorporating phosphorus into the soil profile before planting assures its availability over a long period. Nutrients supplied by fertiliser can be lost to the atmosphere. For example, if urea, or fowl manure based fertilisers are not incorporated into the soil by either cultivation or water then significant ammonia loss (up to 40%) can occur.



TABLE 1

Estimated leaching losses (%) for different soil types and rainfall

Soil type	Low rainfall (<1000 mm)	Medium rainfall (1000-1600 mm)	High rainfall (>1600 mm)
Sand	30	35	45
sandy loam	25	30	40
Loam	20	25	30
clay loam	10	15	20

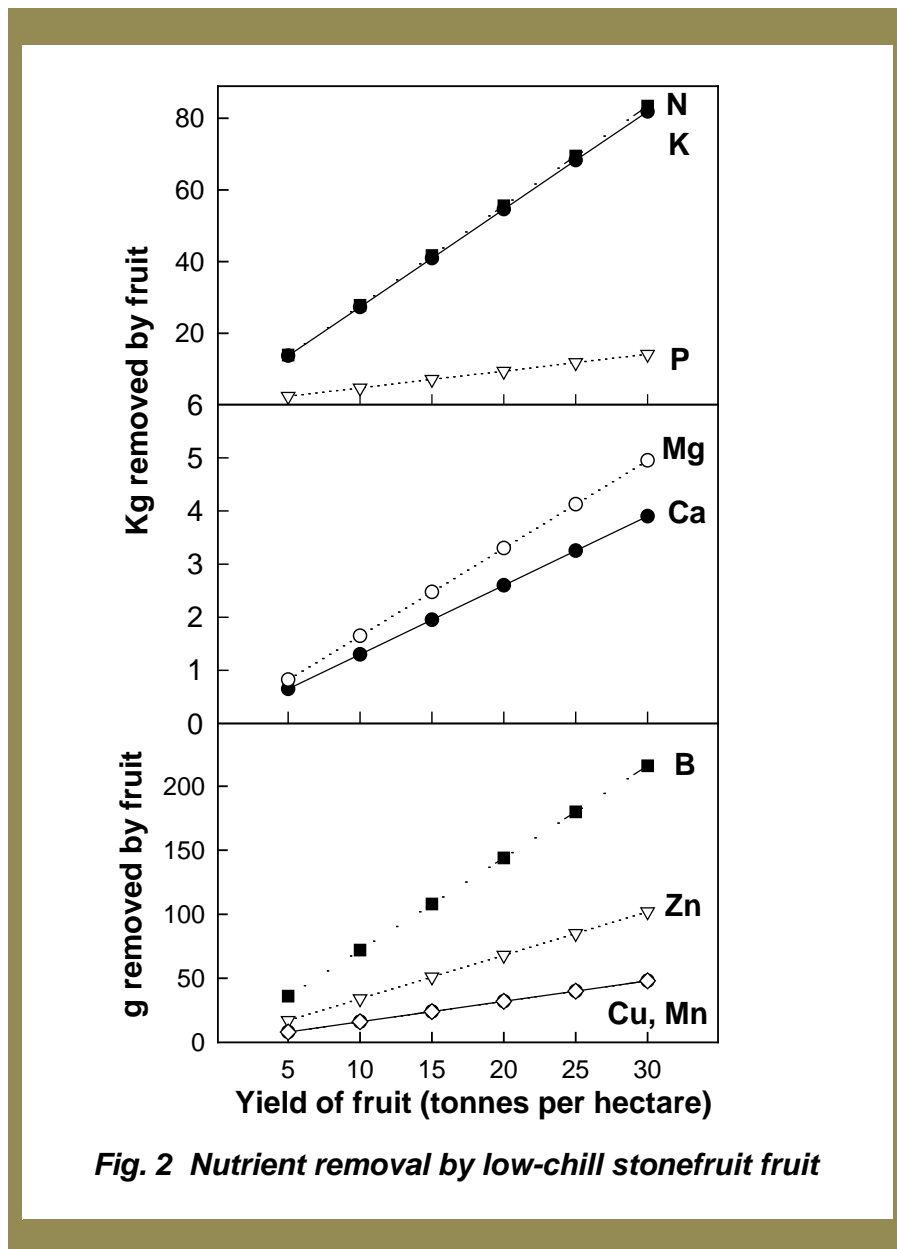


Fig. 2 Nutrient removal by low-chill stonefruit fruit



Timing

The optimum time to apply fertiliser for low-chill cultivars appears to be in late winter/early spring at the time of budbreak (Goldspink, 2001, pers comm.). Up to 60% of the trees fertiliser requirement should be applied at this time. A small amount of nitrogen needs to be applied post-harvest and again in early autumn to maintain leaf health and to reduce the build up of leaf diseases in this period. However, excessive applications of nitrogen after harvest should be avoided otherwise trees will produce several vegetative flushes into the late autumn which will delay floral bud initiation and flowering.

TABLE 2
New fertiliser rates and timing for Australia

Nutrient	Fertiliser rate (kg/hectare)*			Total rate per
	Budbreak (late winter)	Post-harvest (early summer)	Early autumn	
Nitrogen	66	22	22	110
Phosphorus	9	3	3	15
Potassium	66	22	22	110
Calcium	150			150
Magnesium	42	14	14	70

*These fertiliser rates are an average rate and will require further adjusting for different soil types and leaching rates. Adjustments should be based on leaf and soil analyses.

Fertilizer Placement

Mature tree roots extend into the middle of the row so the whole of the orchard should receive some fertiliser. Set up the fertiliser spreader to place most of the fertiliser under the tree canopy

Rates of paclobutrazol in relationship to tree age

Rates of paclobutrazol to apply will depend on many factors, the most important of which are, in order of response are:

- tree vigour/age
- soil type
- climatic conditions
- method of soil application,
- tree density
- crop load
- pruning severity

Because of the many factors that affect the tree's response to paclobutrazol and the possibility of overdosing, growers should first establish dose/response relationships.

This needs to be done for:

1. each variety/rootstock
2. each soil type in the orchard
3. over a 3 year period by treating 2-3 trees each with up to 5 increasing rates of the retardant eg. 0, 2, 4 6 8 ml actual per tree
4. always include a nil control treatment in any evaluation to indicate level of response

Other procedures such as the use of split applications during the growing season will also reduce the possibility of overdosing.

After the initial testing on a few trees only, the product should be gradually phased into use throughout the whole orchard. For long-term use only experienced growers with an excellent knowledge of tree growth performance will be able to use chemical growth retardants successfully.



Seasonal timing of paclobutrazol

Split applications may prove to be more effective and also safer than 1 single application per season. Limited experimental evidence indicates that 2 times of application may be appropriate:

- in spring at the time of thinning (particularly if stub thinning is used);
- about 2-4 weeks after post-harvest summer pruning or topping

Fruit development in low-chill stonefruit often occurs at the time of strongest vegetative growth. Studies by Allan *et al.* (1992, 1993a) have shown that spring applications of paclobutrazol are effective in controlling excessive vegetative growth resulting in increases in fruit size of up to 20%.

Post-harvest applications of paclobutrazol are also beneficial in controlling compensatory regrowth made after summer pruning (standard practise) or topping. Paclobutrazol application can also increase fruit set and advance floral bud development, flowering and fruit maturity (George and Nissen, 1987; Martin *et al.*, 1987; George *et al.*, 1993). Such studies have shown that tree size can be reduced by 46 % when paclobutrazol is combined with post-harvest water stress and by 71% when combined with severe post-harvest topping. Post-harvest applications of paclobutrazol have been beneficial in reducing late summer vegetative flushing and in building up autumn starch reserves. Better uptake may also be achieved after harvest due to a strong root flush. This particularly appears to be the case on heavier soil types that tie up the product.

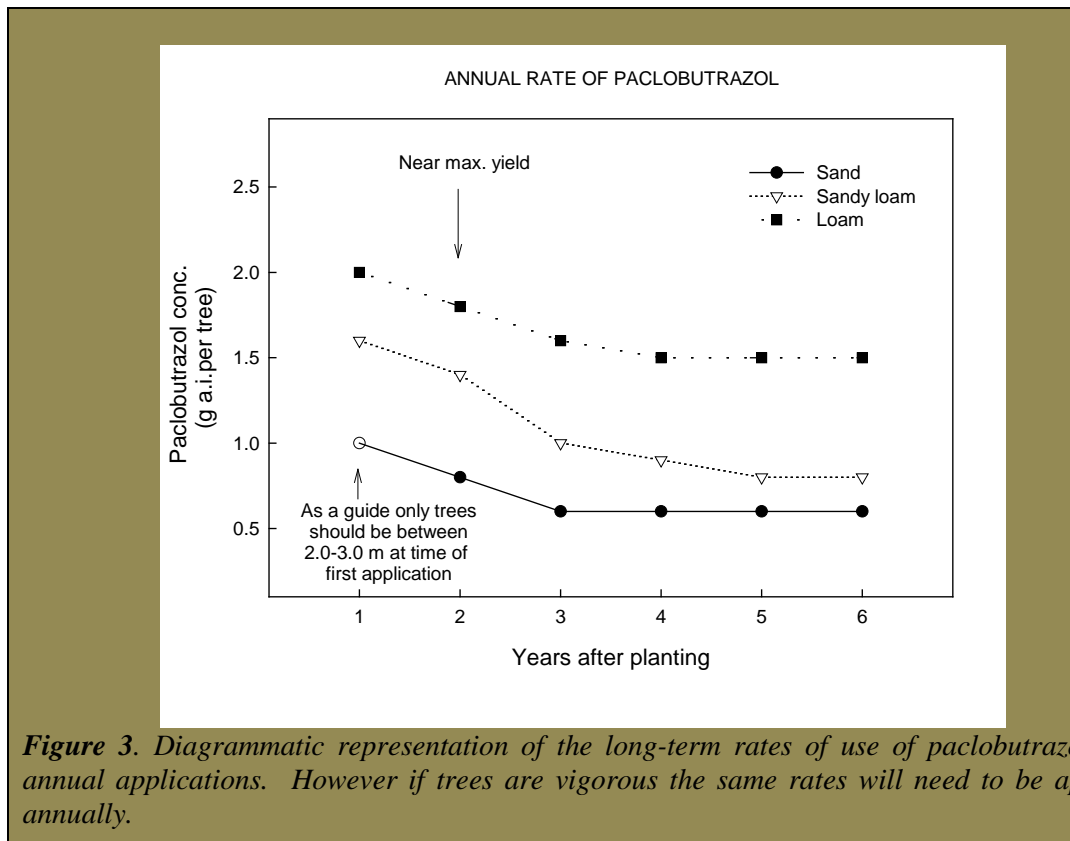


Figure 3. Diagrammatic representation of the long-term rates of use of paclobutrazol annual applications. However if trees are vigorous the same rates will need to be applied annually.

Paclobutrazol and nitrogen interaction

Paclobutrazol alters the response to other management practises such as fertilising, pruning, and timing and rates of dormancy- release chemicals (George and Nissen, 1987) (see Chapter on Nutrition and Nitrogen). We have also shown that paclobutrazol affects the tree's response to nitrogen (Figures 4 and 5). If nitrogen alone is applied pre-harvest to low-chill cultivars under warm subtropical conditions, a considerable proportion of this nutrient will be directed to new vegetative growth. Once the crop load is removed such cultivars may exhibit strong vegetative flushing and application of nitrogen post-harvest may delay leaf fall and floral bud development.



Nitrogen when applied at even very low rates (50-100 g N per annum per tree), may induce excessive vegetative growth. However, the application of paclobutrazol acts as a 'brake' to vegetative growth, which allows more nutrients to be directed to the fruit. Because vegetative growth is slowed by paclobutrazol application, leaf nitrogen levels increase, with a subsequent increase in photosynthesis and available starch reserves. Significant increases in yield and fruit size (up to 30%) may result (Hieke and George, 1994, unpublished data). Apparently higher rates of nitrogen (>200 g nitrogen per tree per annum), than could be normally used (<50 g nitrogen per tree per annum), can be applied to paclobutrazol-treated trees, to further increase leaf nitrogen levels.

We suggest that for paclobutrazol-treated trees that leaf nitrogen can be maintained in the upper region of the critical range (3.6 - 4.0%, post-harvest).

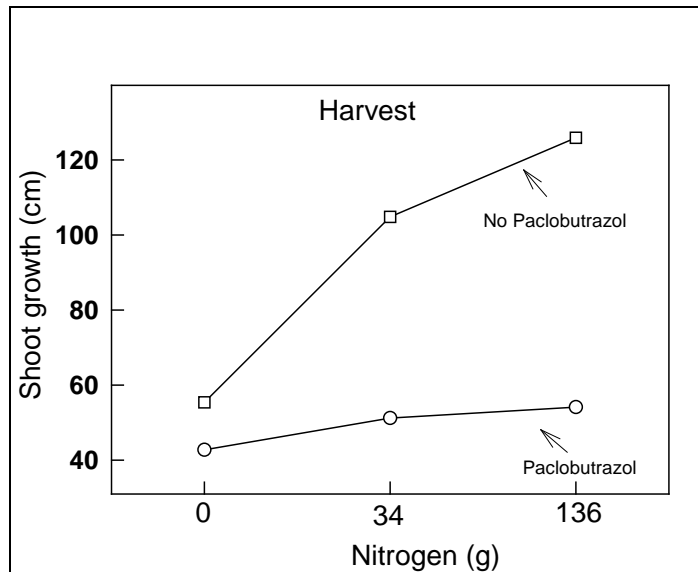


Figure 4. Effects of paclobutrazol on the response of shoot growth to applied nitrogen. Note much reduced growth when paclobutrazol is applied.

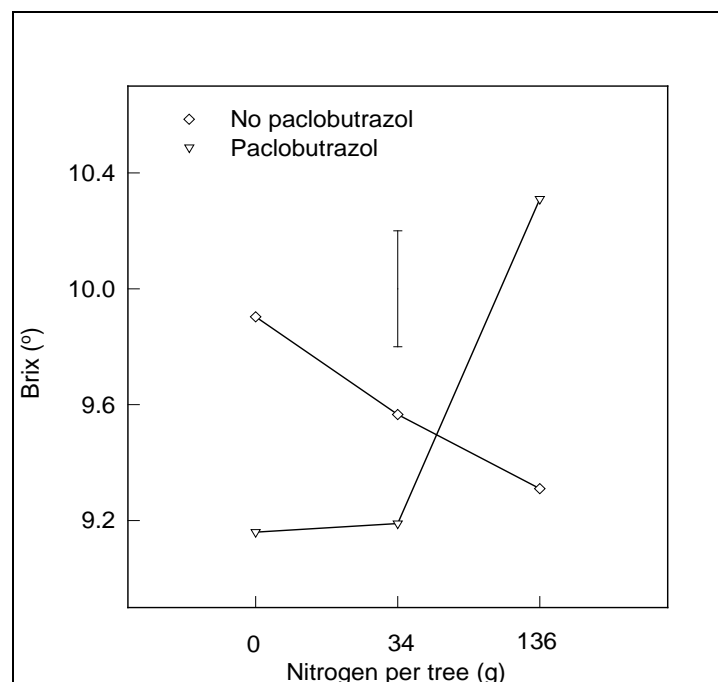


Figure 5. Effects of paclobutrazol on the response of sugar concentrations of peach to applied nitrogen. Note increases in sugar concentrations when applied with paclobutrazol.



Paclobutrazol and pruning

With increasing labour costs, methods of controlling tree size and density become increasingly important. In high density and meadow orchards (up to 8000 trees per hectare), trees are topped to the main scaffold limbs after harvest (Young and Crocker, 1982; Erez, 1982). The resultant strong vegetative regrowth may delay floral bud initiation and development and reduce yields in the subsequent season, particularly if the topping is delayed after harvest (Crocker *et al.*, 1982) or if the technique is used with late maturing cultivars.

Application of paclobutrazol, pre-harvest, after stub-thinning (Allan *et al.*, 1992) and, post harvest, after summer pruning, may prevent compensatory regrowth and improve floral bud development (George *et al.*, 1993). Rates of paclobutrazol to apply to control regrowth after severe pruning may need to be increased by more than 50%.

Trellising systems such as Tatura should improve light utilisation efficiency; however, with low-chill stone fruit this benefit may be negated by excessive vegetative growth into the centre of the 'V'. Some low chill cultivars produce fewer floral buds as a result of shading, and rapidly lose productivity on trellis systems. The use of paclobutrazol should improve light interception.



Industry Information ...



L to R - Geoff Bell, Philip Bruem (AYOF) and John Ballard (Elders).

The Australian Year of the Farmer 2012

The Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 was officially launched at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney on 12 October 2011 at the site of Australia's first European farm. Patron, the **Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC**, officially launched the Year in conjunction with **Ambassador Glenn McGrath and his wife Sara**, and **Natalie Gruzlewski** – host of Television's

Farmer Wants a Wife. The launch welcomed farmers, farm animals, farm machinery and a map of Australia made of fresh produce onsite for the national announcement that 2012 will be the Australian Year of the Farmer.

Designed to celebrate the contribution farmers make to the Australian economy and community, the Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 is an education and awareness campaign founded by a not-for-profit, non-political organisation.

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens was transformed into an agricultural showpiece to celebrate the broad range and fine quality of the produce Australian farmers grow and harvest, with an impressive horticultural display of produce grown in each state and territory arranged to form a map of Australia.

A selection of prize winning stud animals including a Charolais bull, alpacas and Merino sheep, as well as a New Holland T7.6 tractor driving against the backdrop of the Sydney skyline added to the agricultural atmosphere.



Following the launch, Australian Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC, joined local school children and Royal Botanical Gardens Executive Director, **Professor David Mabberley**, in planting a citrus tree at the site of the first farm in Australia.

Conceived by NSW-based farmer **Philip Bruem AM** and former Sydney Markets CEO **Geoff Bell**, Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 is a year-long program of activities that will celebrate the contribution farmers and rural communities make to our national economy and society.

Mr Bruem said that the Australian Year of the Farmer recognised what farmers did for all Australians.

“Australia’s farmers should be recognised and celebrated: for feeding the nation, for leading the world in farming techniques and innovation, and for sustaining the vital agribusinesses that underpin our economy.

“Farmers are the providers of our nation,” he said.

"Every person who eats food is connected to farming. Every person who wears a wool coat is connected to farming. Every person who has timber in their house construction or sits at a wooden table is connected to farming.

"We encourage all Australians to reflect on the origins of the food they consume and the fibre and other products they use every day and to seek out and buy Australian produce wherever possible," Mr Bruem said.

As part of the Australian Year of the Farmer program, a range of events, initiatives and educational programs will be rolled out across the nation throughout 2012. Highlights will include a nine-vehicle *One Country Roadshow* travelling more than 56,000kms to attend more than 400 events, an unprecedented Agricultural Innovation and Technology Expo as well as the most significant food event to be held in Australia, Food of Origin Extravaganza, to promote the quality and origin of Australian food products – from ‘wheat to meat’ and ‘paddock to plate’.

Education will be a strong focus, as will the many career opportunities available in the agribusiness sector. A photo competition, a commemorative collector’s coin and stamps as well as a TV program and privileges card have all been planned as part of the celebration.

A non-political, not-for profit organisation, Australian Year of the Farmer is made possible by Foundation Partners Elders and Woolworths, and major partners Fairfax Media, oOH! Media, Toyota and PMP. Seed funding for the development of the Year was provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with support from all States and Territory Governments.

Australian Year of the Farmer 2012 is a year-long program of activities that will celebrate the contribution farmers and rural communities make to our nation – offering recognition for: feeding the nation, for leading the world in farming techniques and innovation, and for sustaining the vital agribusinesses that underpin the Australian economy.





Industry Information ...

Lebaycid (fenthion) supply situation

Lebaycid (fenthion) has a registration to control fruit fly in a range of crops. There were some early season shortages of supply due to unexpected early season demand, which has now eased in late November.

Resellers in Northern NSW have sufficient stock of *Lebaycid* on hand although the demand has dropped off as the stone fruit harvest season moves to tradition regions such as Swan Hill and Orange.

Controlling fruit fly

For growers who have traditionally relied upon *Lebaycid* as a cover spray and who are currently experiencing heavy fruit fly pressure, there are alternatives. Trichlorfon (Dipterex/Lepidex) and maldison (Hy-Mal/Fyfanon) have registrations and permits for a large range of crops. For on-going control, growers are free to use whatever products they choose, provided they comply with label and permit requirements. This includes using a mix of sprays.

The permits, which are available on the APVMA website, are listed below.

Permit Number	Chemical	Crops	States issued for	Permit Holder	Date Issued	Expiry Date
PER12442 (PDF, 50kb)	Trichlorfon	Eggplant, pepino & cape gooseberry	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, ACT & TAS.	Growcom	10 Aug 2011	31 May 2014
PER12439 (PDF, 49kb)	Trichlorfon	Table grapes	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, ACT & TAS.	Growcom	30 Aug 2011	31 May 2014
PER12450 (PDF, 54kb)	Trichlorfon	Tree, bush & vine fruit crops	ALL	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER12486 (PDF, 53kb)	Trichlorfon	Berry fruits	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, VIC & ACT	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER12590 (PDF, 59kb)	Spinetoram	Pome & stone fruit	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, VIC & ACT	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER12927 (PDF, 61kb)	Spinetoram	Strawberries	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, VIC & ACT	Strawberries Australia	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER12907 (PDF, 64kb)	Maldison	Stone fruit	ALL	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER12940 (PDF, 65kb)	Maldison	Strawberries, rubus & blueberries	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, VIC & ACT	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014
PER13031 (PDF, 33kb)	Maldison	Capsicum & cucumber	QLD, NSW, SA, WA, NT, VIC & ACT	Growcom	6 Oct 2011	31 May 2014

Quarantine requirements

It is important to distinguish between a program of sprays designed to protect the crop during the growing season and a program of sprays designed to meet Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) requirements. The two are not necessarily the same.

Movement of fruit under ICA requires an auditable program of sprays. There must be a complete program of sprays as specified by the relevant ICA.



Where there is a choice of sprays to satisfy an ICA, growers must opt for one or the other. It is not possible to have a mix. For example, a low chill stone fruit grower who began with a program of *fenthion* sprays, only to find supplies to complete the ICA mandated program were not available. Such a grower would have to change to trichlorfon and base the ICA certification on this use pattern.

Residue risk management

Growers need to monitor fruit fly pressure and spray when necessary. Alternatives to *Lebaycid* may not give the same level of protection. Growers also need to be aware of the different residue requirements for different insecticides on different crops.

For stone fruit, for example, *fenthion* has a relatively high MRL (maximum residue level) of 5 mg/kg or 5 parts per million. Trichlorfon, on the other hand, has a much smaller MRL for stone fruit of 0.1 mg/kg or 1 part per 10 million. (Peaches have a separate MRL of 0.2 mg/kg.) In other words, the acceptable residue for stone fruit, except peaches, is 50 times less for trichlorfon than for fenthion.

Just because one insecticide has the same use pattern as another, **DO NOT** assume it is identical in all respects and that you can apply it in the same manner.

To avoid an unacceptable residue, it is necessary to apply the spray at the correct rate, to comply with the respray intervals, not to exceed the maximum number of sprays, and to follow the withholding period, i.e. the time between the last spray and harvest.

Calibration is important for the whole spray program, especially the last spray. For the last spray, it is critical to avoid over-application. Adjust the water volume to the canopy density and **DO NOT** spray beyond run-off.

If you are using an alternative to *fenthion*, consult your district horticulturist for advice on spray application, sprayer set-up and residue management.

Spraying stone fruit in the 2011 season.

Growers who are experiencing difficulties sourcing *Lebaycid* now after starting to spray early in the season to comply with ICA21 will need to apply *trichlorfon* to satisfy ICA 21.

Trichlorfon (either *Dipterex* or *Lepidex 500g/L*) will need to be sprayed up to four times or every 7-10 days up to harvest. The first spray is 250ml/100L and all subsequent sprays are at half strength of 125ml/100L.

The withholding period for this product is 2 days. Please ensure that the final spray before harvest is just to the point of runoff. There will be a trade-off between efficacy of the product in controlling fruit fly for ICA 21 and avoiding residue issues and a risk management strategy needs to be adopted on the final spray before harvest.

Any grower who is unable to obtain *Lebaycid* this season and has not started using it yet should stay with trichlorfon throughout the season for ICA 21.

2011 Seasonal outcome for ICA 21

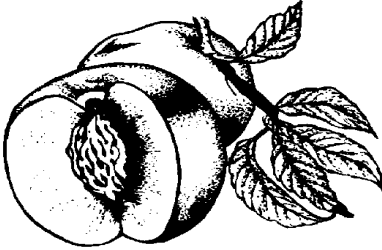
At the time of writing this newsletter there have been no major non conformities or residues picked up from Melbourne or South Australian markets for growers using ICA 21 or modified variations of ICA 21 using *Trichlorfon* in the 2011 season.

This article was supplied by **Phillip Wilk** – District Horticulturist (Tropical Horticulture)

NSW Department of Primary Industries

Ph: 02 6626 1294; Fax: 02 6628 1744; Mobile: 0411 139 567; Email: phillip.wilk@industry.nsw.gov.au





LOW CHILL AUSTRALIA INC.

(ABN 28 381 271 244)

Heavenly Valley Farms, PO Box 188, Bangalow NSW 2479

Ph: 02 6687 2044, Mobile: 0408 477 959, Fax: 02 6687 0712

Email: president@lowchillaustralia.com.au

Email: secretary@lowchillaustralia.com.au

Email: treasurer@lowchillaustralia.com.au

The Taste of Spring

- NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

The Annual General Meeting of Low Chill Australia Inc., will be held on Tuesday, 13th December 2011 at the Bangalow Bowling & Sports Club, Byron St., Bangalow, NSW commencing at 11.00 am (NSW Summer Time).

- AGM AGENDA -

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report for the period 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011.
5. Business Arising from the Reports
6. Election of members to the LCA Committee for 2011-2012.
7. General Business –
 - Report from Phillip Wilk on the 2011 Season
 - Update on Bruce Topps Breeding Program
 - Report on the impact of the recent members vote on the proposed levy increase
 - Other General Business
8. AGM Close

Ray Hick
LCA President

Greg Nash
LCA Secretary

22nd November 2011

Please place an apology if unable to attend.



Publication Details ...

Australian Stonefruit Grower ***incorporating the Low Chill Stonefruit Grower*** ***- 2012 Publication Timetable -***

Contributions are invited for the next scheduled publication - **AUGUST 2011.**

FEBRUARY	APRIL	AUGUST	NOVEMBER
Advertising Deadline 7 February	Advertising Deadline 14 April	Advertising Deadline 31 July	Advertising Deadline 31 October
Copy Deadline 10 February	Copy Deadline 21 April	Copy Deadline 7 August	Copy Deadline 7 November

Note: Publication Dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Publishers.

Advertising in this publication are very reasonable and provide a cost effective way of informing members about your products and services.

ADVERTISING RATES -

Full Page - \$250.00* **Half Page - \$175.00*** **Quarter Page - \$100.00***

**Rates are subject to GST if applicable. Advertisers will be invoiced following the publication issue and the terms are Strictly 30 Days.*

Please request an ADVERTISING BOOKING FORM.

CONTACT -

Col Scotney – National Producer/Editor

Australian Stonefruit Grower

Email: Australian.stonefruit.grower@aapt.net.au

Communications Manager

Low Chill Australia Inc.

PO Box 772, Hervey Bay QLD 4655

Phone: (07) 4128 0585 – Mobile: 0407 589 445 – Email: cm@lowchillaustralia.com.au

That's all from me for 2011.

*The very best to readers for a truly
great festive season. Back in 2012.*

Col Scotney - Editor – Australian Stonefruit Grower
LCA Communications Manager



In prosperity, our friends know us; in adversity, we know our friends.

- John Churton Collins