

19<sup>th</sup> December 2008

## SA VALENCIA CROP DOWN ON INITIAL PROJECTIONS

The 2008/09 Valencia harvest now looks set to be slightly down on the initial estimate of 52,000 tonnes. It is now more likely to be around the 46,000 tonne mark.

As per normal at this time of the year there are many factors which influence the estimate with none greater than the availability of water. Fruit size at this stage is very small which is also helping to drag the figure down. A lack of significant rainfall over the Spring period has meant that fruit has sized at slower than average rates and some growers have fruit too small to harvest at the moment and therefore many are waiting until fruit begins to size into January and later.

According to the Citrus Board data the current navel harvest is very nearly complete and the revised estimate of 50,000 tonnes has been reached, with the final figure likely to be between 52,000 and 53,000 tonnes.

The Valencia harvest will be closely monitored by industry over the next few months and if needed further regular updates will be made, especially if significant volumes of fruit remain at harvest, however this is unlikely as over 50% of the crop will have been harvested by then.

## RIVER MURRAY ALLOCATIONS TO STAY AT 15%

River Murray irrigation allocations will remain at 15% as the current extreme drought continues in the Murray-Darling Basin. Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald says only 140GL flowed into the system during November, well below the long-term November average of 771 GL.

"There was a very small improvement of 35 GL allocated to South Australia, which has been reserved for critical human needs in 2009-10. In the six months to November 30, only 1415 GL has flowed into the River Murray system compared with the long-term average for that period of 7201 GL. However, with last week's good rains throughout the catchment, an update will be provided to irrigators on how allocations may be impacted as soon as inflow data is available." Minister Maywald said.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html)

## NEW MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY STARTS

On Monday 15 December the new MDB Authority took control of the independent and scientific management of the Murray system.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said "This represents the start of a process where the health of the River Murray will be put before state-based parochial politics. At last, we have the agreements and the measure in place to start to see real change in the way River Murray is managed. South Australia has fought long and hard for the national reform agenda that will serve us, and our river better."

"The new independent authority will develop the plan and will report only to the Federal Minister, no longer will the States have a right of veto over setting caps on extraction. State's squabbling over water can become a thing of the past, as new sustainable caps on taking water out of the river are set."

## CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSURE

The office of the SA Citrus Industry Development Board will be closed from Saturday the 20 December 2008 to Sunday 4 January 2009.

The Chairman, Peter Walker, Executive Officer, Andrew Green, Board Members and all the staff at the Board wish all of our associates a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Merry  
Christmas



## MORE RANDOM ROADBLOCKS FOR FRUIT FLY

Random roadblock blitzes will continue through until May next year to ensure fruit and fruiting vegetables are not brought into South Australia. Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister, Rory McEwen says the random roadblock blitzes complement permanent and seasonal roadblocks and disposal bins at entry points to the state.

“In the last 12 months, inspectors at random roadblocks have seized 1,262kg of fruit and fruiting vegetables and issued over 300 expiation notices. All entry roads into SA and the Riverland are covered by quarantine signs and bins. Many South Australians do not realise that if they travel into the Riverland with fruit and vegetable produce purchased elsewhere within South Australia, then they must carry with them a valid detailed receipt or Plant Health Certificate.”

“People need to remember that it’s illegal to travel with fruit and vegetables across all borders into South Australia. If they’re caught they can be liable for fines ranging from \$55 to \$210 (plus \$20 levy) depending on the quantity of produce.” Mr McEwen said.

## FULLER’S ROSE WEEVIL RESEARCH UPDATE

Fuller’s rose weevil (FRW) is a citrus pest of which both China and Korea are highly sensitive. A project funded by the Commonwealth Government through HAL and run by SARDI, NSW DPI and VIC DPI started early 2008 to assist industry access export markets. So far the project has focused on improving monitoring and control strategies. The first year’s findings include:

### Field sampling and monitoring

Most effective methods include:

- Sampling 1 fruit per tree from 50 trees showing visible FRW damage per block.
- Foliage shaking for adult FRW is more effective than fruit samples.

### Adult trapping

- Effective traps have been developed, with most adults caught during autumn and winter. Some adults were still trapped in spring

### Biological Control

- Soil-applied nematodes and fungi reduced FRW densities by up to 80% in overseas studies. Australian field trials are investigating application via irrigation systems.

### Chemical Control

- Limited field trials have been conducted to assess trunk sprays for control of FRW.
- Periods of protection are being assessed but could be as long as six weeks.

To facilitate trunk spraying, a butt spray applicator has been designed in conjunction with Croplands (Wingfield SA). It incorporates ultra-sonic sensors enabling accurate application of chemicals to trunks, greatly reduces the volume of chemical required, minimises disruption of beneficial organisms and is quick.

### FRW research over the next six months will focus on:

- Large scale field trials of the butt-applied insecticides
- Larval distribution under trees with reference to the influence of irrigation methods
- Assessment of soil-applied fungi and nematode treatments
- Improving trap efficiency, (e.g. investigation attractant/deterrents for mass trapping.)

More details on this research are available on the SARDI website [www.sardi.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=217](http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=217) . The latest version of the Guide to the Field management of Fuller’s Rose Weevil in citrus is available from Citrus IDO’s and will be available shortly on the SARDI website.



**SA Citrus Board**  
South Australian  
Citrus Industry Development Board

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