

Australian CHERRIES

December 2013 - No 14



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- R&D Articles from TIA
- Mulching for better soils and fruit
- Biosecurity for U-pick orchards
- Horticulture Australia Ltd
- Export Insights
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Sterile Insect Technology (SIT)

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State Reports



Horticulture Australia

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Contact CGA office
for advertising & any other matters
relating to



**CGA 2013-14
Associate Members**

We are very pleased to acknowledge the support from the following organisations who have now taken up Associate membership with CGA for 2013/14

- BBC Technologies**
- Campbell Chemicals**
- Favco**
- Glamapak**
- Graham's Factree**
- Martin Walker Marketing Pty Ltd**
- Melpat International**
- NetPro**
- OakSun Consulting**
- Specialty Packaging Aust Pty Ltd**
- Sustainable Liquid Technology (SLTEC)**
- Sumitomo Chemical Australia**
- Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture**
- Wobelea**
- YV Packaging Pty Ltd**

Please visit the new CGA Website www.cherrygrowers.org.au for links to our Associate Members websites and for more information on becoming an Associate Member of CGA.



Well, the cherry season is under harvest in most states with some mixed results being reported. As expected the 2013 crop is well down on last year's bumper harvest. Early varieties harvested this season have commanded good money in the marketplace with supply moving through the retail sector with good sized fruit.

Enquiries for export cherries has been strong from a range of countries wanting supply.

With volumes down and better domestic prices the export enquiries will be harder to fill, but with the long term view for future seasons we still must try and service all markets both domestically and abroad to keep the door open into these markets.

The market access results we are still looking for into China, Thailand & Taiwan are a slow frustrating process. Just when you think we are gaining in one of these market negotiations, another barrier always comes along that needs action and more resources put towards. All these bumps in the road take more time and really burns up many man hours to navigate a way through. Continual discussions with DOA stating our preferences and treatment options into all of these markets is an on-going job. The CGA has always put forward from the outset all the treatment options available for these markets. The best possible outcomes and strategic position for the future negotiations with these countries has always been considered. Sadly the opposing country makes the call on the pathway that they need to take for their Bio-Security protection into the future with foreign trading industries.

The marketing campaign has kicked off for the 2013 season and we all look forward to a strong program with the view of raising the profile of Australian Cherries around the country.

This will hopefully keep sales on the move throughout the retail outlets all over the country.

With the bulk of the Australian cherry crop still to be harvested I hope that prices can stay firm and the strong demand continues for all growers concerned. Let's also hope that Mother Nature does the right thing by us all and the weather doesn't become another factor in the wash up of the 2013-14 season.

In closing I would like to wish all growers and their families the very best for the coming festive season and for a good cherry harvest.

Andrew Smith

President - Cherry Growers Australia

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Welcome to the fourteenth edition of “Australian Cherries” Newsletter.

Since the last newsletter, the CGA office has been very busy on a number of fronts and can I say how disappointed CGA and the Export Working Group are that 2 key areas of market access are still in limbo at this time of the season.

We need issues resolved by September of each year, not this continual delaying approach taken by countries we are trying to access. It is frustrating for us as I am sure it is for growers and exporters.

Key Activities since the last newsletter include:

CGA Website

The website www.cherrygrowers.org.au is being regularly updated with news, other key documents and stories. Please give us any feedback and suggestions for the site and for the new Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/cherrygrowers> and also please have a look at the new marketing Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/AussieCherries>

Market Access

The Cherry Export Working Group has continued to work very hard on key areas.

The current membership is:

- Chair: Hugh Molloy - Antico, CGA Board Member and OHMA Board Member;
- Deputy Chair: Michael Rouget - Grower and Exporter, Marketing Sub Committee;
- Tim Reid, Scott Coupland, Jon Gaudion, Trevor Hall, Michael Batinich and Tim Jones, all growers and exporters;
- Simon Boughey: CGA CEO and Secretary to the Committee.

The CEWG can co-opt in advice as required and is looking to employ a consultant to assist in this process. The CEWG can also apply for funding for research

to cover gaps in our market access data that is required by DAFF to negotiate for us now and into the future, particularly in the area of MB and other fumigants.

Key Issues: China

CGA is still pushing hard for a separate review of the cherry protocol for improved mainland access in 2013/14 and beyond. These issues include:

- Pre export cold treatment;
- In transit cold treatment;
- A workable and commercial airfreight protocol to enable growers outside of pest free areas access to the markets within 48-72 hours of harvest. ie: Fumigation, Systems Approach, Irradiation etc;
- Fruit fly / med fly issues in relation to East - West Protocol acceptance;
- Current PFA's on mainland Australia being included into future protocol and also looking to smaller areas of low pest prevalence and also property freedom;
- Sea freight packaging for PFA and non PFA areas, the use of mesh bags and potential issues of bags being broken;
- Issues related to temperature probes; and
- Recognition of separate grower consignments in one container ie: if protocol is breached, not having whole container knocked out if problem is found only in one grower's consignment.

From the meeting in Beijing in August there was to be another meeting at the end of October to look at the issues of cold treatment at 3 degrees for 14 days across a number of industries and if this couldn't be agreed to, then China are looking to consider a trial season of cherries at this level.

This was delayed to the end of November and then delayed again to the middle of December due to discussions with AQSIQ and DOA.

A work plan for China has been finalised and grow-

Simon Boughey - Chief Executive Officer

ers who have registered to export into China have attended workshops in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. We had about 15 growers and exporters register from SA, VIC and NSW, however due to the protracted nature of market access discussions we are unsure if any cherries will be sent in the 2013/14 season from those states.

Thailand

The CEWG and CGA Board put back a response to the draft protocol from Thailand following the audit in late 2012 and provided comment back to DAFF on 11 April 2013.

We are still waiting for the draft protocol to be gazetted by DOA in Thailand. This was to be gazetted in October 2013, then November 2013 however we are still waiting.

Once gazetted we need to make changes so it can be commercial for growers outside PFA's, so we are not sure what the timeframes will be to send any fruit to Thailand in the 2013/14 season.

The key aspects are the need for an airfreight protocol with MB and Irradiation options and also 3 degrees for 14 days for in transit or onshore cold treatment for areas outside the PFA's. We also need to put forward a systems approach.

Due to the lack of haste with this process, CGA asked that Australia's DOA request transitional arrangements be reinstated for the 2013/14 season as a gesture of goodwill and cooperation between the two countries, whilst the protocol was being finalised. Unfortunately this request was not agreed to.

The sooner we get this sorted the better for our industry, so we can let stakeholders know what is happening. We have critical time frames and windows for our growers in the different cherry growing regions. There is a clear demand for cherries from Australia in Thailand based on feedback we have received from various companies and Austrade over

the past two years since trade was suspended.

Marketing and Promotion

The 2013/14 and 2014/15 National Marketing Campaign run by The Hallway, was presented to the Annual Levy Payers meeting in Canberra on 6 August 2013. We are also having meetings in all States to discuss the campaign and to tailor it to local matters and events. The campaign was launched on 15 November 2013 in Sydney on Channel 10's morning show "Wake Up".

750 retail Point of Sale kits have been sent out across Australia and please have a look at the new marketing Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/AussieCherries>

Research and Development

The call for projects for 2014/15 closed in early November, with the key priority being **Market Access**. The projects will be reviewed by the Cherry R&D Sub-Committee and Cherry IAC in late February 2014.

The Australian Cherry Industry needs to strive to continue to raise domestic consumer demand for cherries over the full season and also build on export markets, such as gaining access back into Thailand for 2013/14 and better access for all of Australia into China.

However let us not forget the other 20 markets currently exported to and opportunities that exist in these markets, build on our success there and look to another 50 markets we could export to globally.

All the best for the festive season and 2014.

Simon Boughey

CEO - Cherry Growers Australia

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Management of fruit rot in sweet cherry, prevention is better than cure!



Dr Karen Barry, Perennial Horticulture Centre, TIA

Cherry rot is a concern to most cherry growers, especially those in wetter areas, but there are many gaps in knowledge, including what the main pathogens are that currently cause disease in different regions.

What are the pathogens?

Results of a recent study in Tasmania emphasized the fact that grey mould (*Botrytis cinerea*) can play a large role in pre-harvest rot, in addition to the usual culprit brown rot (*Monilinia fructicola* and *Monilinia laxa*). During the 2011-2012 season, honours student Michael Tarbath (supervised by Dr Karen Barry and Dr Penny Measham) completed a study in a commercial, conventionally managed sweet cherry orchard in southern Tasmania. As shown in the table below, the great majority of fruit demonstrating rot symptoms at harvest were infected with *B. cinerea* (grey mould), with **no evidence** of disease caused by either *M. fructicola* or *M. laxa* (brown rot pathogens). This has significant implications for management.

Fungal Infection Type	% Pathogen Recovery	
	Cracked Fruit	Non-Cracked Fruit
<i>B. cinerea</i>	95.7 ± 2.8	93.9 ± 3.2
<i>Alternaria sp.</i>	1.7 ± 1.2	3.5 ± 2.7
<i>Aureobasidium sp.</i>	0.9 ± 0.9	1.7 ± 1.2
<i>Cladosporium sp.</i>	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<i>Monilinia sp.</i>	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
<i>Other</i>	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0

These results and others related to host factors can be found in the final report of HAL project CY11012.

How and when do they infect?

The brown rot and grey mould pathogens infect cherries in a similar way – with the inoculum (called conidia) infecting the susceptible blossoms and then the developing fruit. The inoculum could come from mummies or cankers in the tree from the previous season or (less likely) from fruit on the orchard floor. The infections then remain “latent” and rot only develops as the fruit mature (when the antifungal compounds present in green fruit are reduced and sugars increased). Fruit drop is another time when infections may peak. These fruit (especially when they don’t abscise) can become rotten and then provide inoculum to infect other fruit. Based on studies from elsewhere, the brown rot conidia need a minimum of 6 hours of wetness to infect, while the grey mould may need as little as 4 hours of wetness.

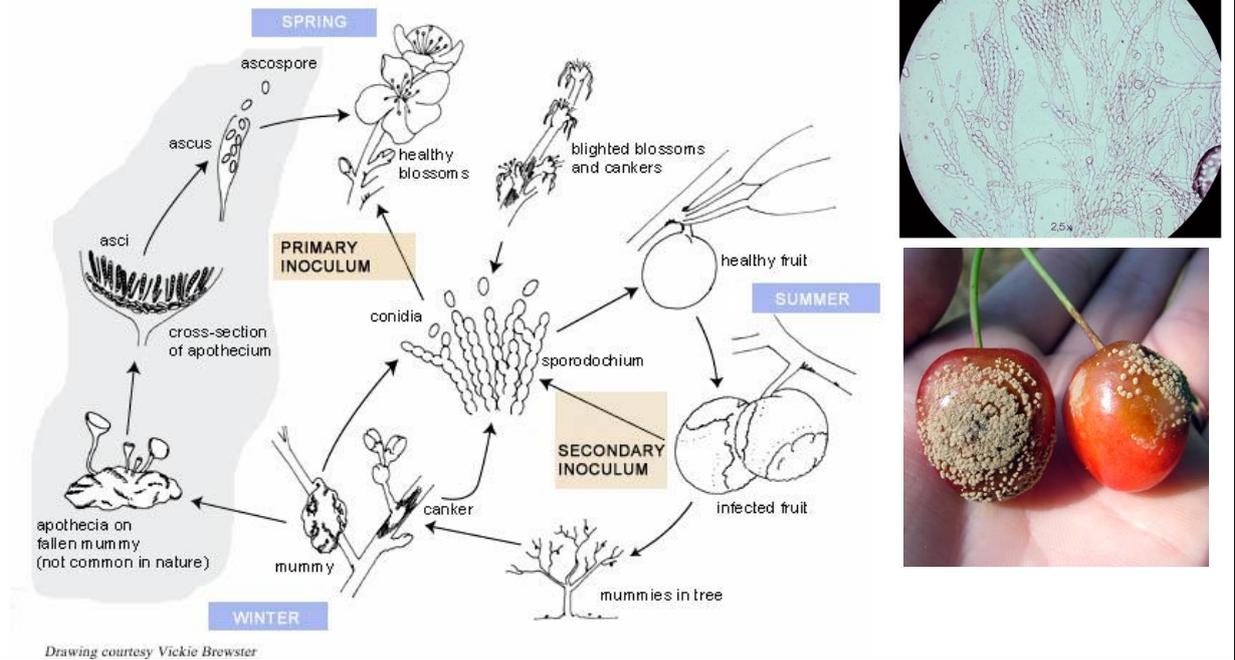
Integrated management

The fundamentals of integrated disease management for rot include monitoring for inoculum and disease, as well as cultural, biological and chemical control (see the CGA/TIA IPM calendar for Cherries: http://www.cherrygrowers.org.au/assets/IPM_Calendar_2013.pdf). Cultural controls include removing inoculum such as mummies, avoiding extended canopy wetness and controlling insects which damage fruit or spread spores. Some successful trials have also been undertaken in biological controls using *Trichoderma* species.

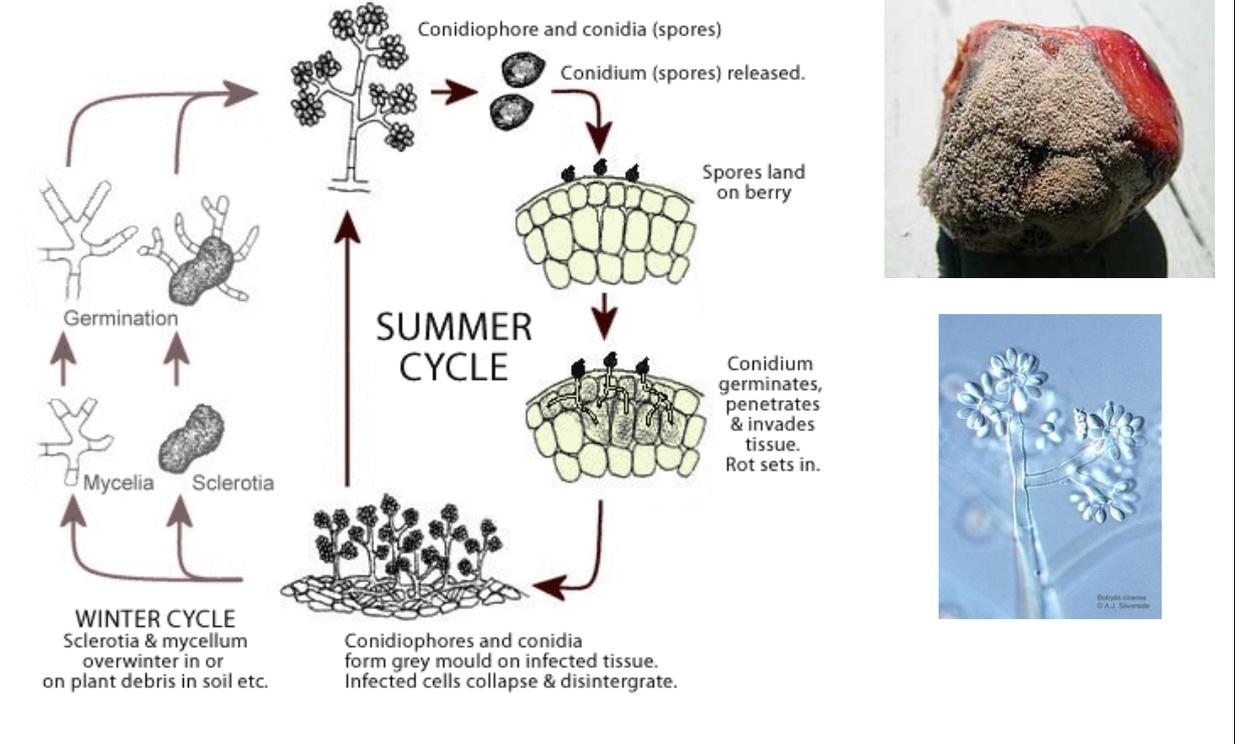
While a range of fungicides are available for control of rot in Australia, no new products have been introduced recently. For some export destinations the use of several products is restricted to petal fall. Maximum residue limits regulate usage, especially the withholding period, due to concerns for environmental and human health. Mode of action is classed by groups, and those with an “M” group reflect that the fungicide has multiple sites of action on the pathogen and resistance is less likely to develop. Those with single-sites of action are more prone to the development of resistance by the pathogens, for example in Australia, variable responses of *M. fructicola* isolates from summerfruit and canning peaches, nectarines and plum has been found to propiconazole and iprodione, suggesting potential for development of resistant populations. *Botrytis cinerea* has also been reported to show resistance to some products (in other crops) in Australia. The extent of fungicide resistance of pathogen populations found in cherry orchards in Australia is unknown.

Active ingredient	Brand names	Group
Captan	Captan WG	M4
Chlorothalonil	Bravo720	M5
Dithianon	Delan	M9
Iprodione	Rovral Aquaflo	2
Mancozeb	Penncozeb	M3
Procyimidone	Sumisclex/Fortress	2
Propiconazole	Tilt/Tyrant	3
Thiram	Thiragranz	M3
Ziram	Ziram	M3
Sulphur	Sulphur	M1

Brown Rot Lifecycle (*Monilinia fructicola*)



Grey Mould Lifecycle (*Botrytis cinerea*)



A new tool

Several “reduced risk” fungicides have been used in the USA for around 10 years and many are just as effective at controlling fruit rot as the traditional fungicides. Due to the reduced risk to the environment and consumers, they can be used closer to harvest. The good news for Australian cherry growers is that one reduced-risk fungicide (Pristine) which is effective for both brown rot and grey mould is now available via a minor use permit. The product is a combination of two active ingredients, boscalid and pyraclostrobin. These are both single-site activity fungicides therefore use of Pristine is restricted to three applications during the season and it should not be used consecutively, but alternatively with other products. There are reports of pathogen resistance developing to these fungicides already in the USA, so adherence to the permits is essential.

New research on the way

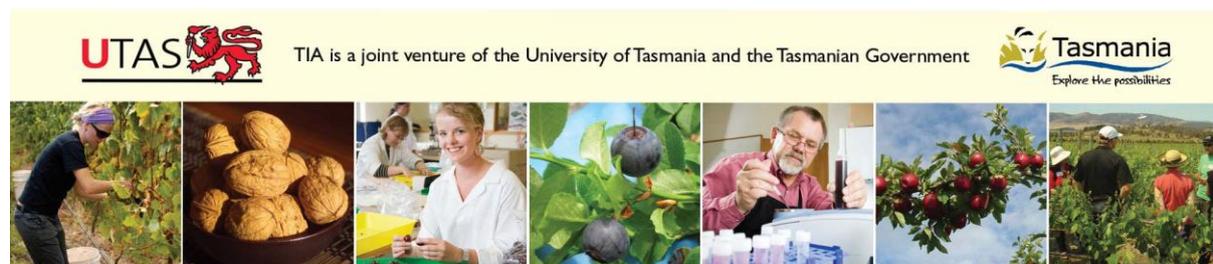
To fill knowledge gaps about pre-harvest rot in sweet cherry in Australia, a new 3-year HAL project is starting this year. This will investigate weather-based infection risk (laboratory based) on a range of varieties and at different stages of fruit development. Infection incidence over time will be determined at field sites in Tasmania and NSW. To confirm identity of the main pathogens causing cherry rot, surveys will be conducted at harvest in Tasmania and NSW. Knowledge gained will help growers to better target the right pathogens at the right time.

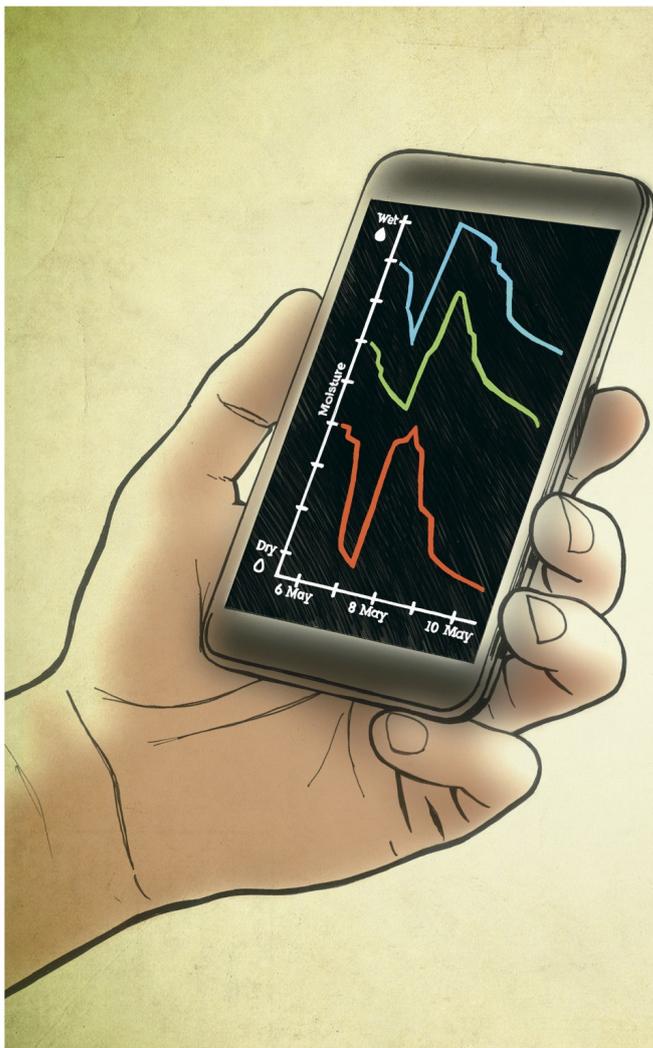
Project contacts

The project is being led by Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (Dr Karen Barry, Dr Morag Glen and Dr Ross Corkrey) in collaboration with NSW DPI (Kevin Dodds and Dr Len Tesoriero).

For more information, please contact Dr Karen Barry, Karen.Barry@utas.edu.au

CY11012 and CY13001: These projects have been funded by Horticulture Australia using the cherry industry levy and matched funds from the Australian government.





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Mulching for better soils and fruit

Carbon taxes aside, reducing greenhouse gas emissions would seem to be a good idea, and for horticulture this is an area of great potential opportunity.

Most farmers would be aware of the large amounts of methane emitted from both the front and the back ends of cattle and sheep. Cows belch an average of 200L methane per day! The result is that for \$1,000 revenue at the farm gate, 3.5 or 6.7 tonnes of CO₂-e have been produced by sheep or cattle respectively.

In comparison, horticulture is a very low emitter of greenhouse gases, producing only .08 tonnes CO₂-e for every \$1,000 farm gate revenue.

In fact, horticulture offers major opportunities to pull carbon back out of the atmosphere. Increasing soil organic carbon by only 1% in the top layer of soil sequesters around 22t carbon /ha, equating to 80t CO₂-e /ha.

A Federally funded (DAFF) project is now examining greenhouse gas emissions from permanent orchard systems. Cherry and apple orchards have been selected in NSW and Tasmania, and measuring chambers installed. The tests will examine the effects of different mulches on soil carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

However, what most growers will want to know is – what about my trees?

Overseas research has found yield increases of up to 50% in apple orchards after 5 years of lucerne and clover cover crops. Another study showed that soil carbon could be increased by 1% annually using cover crops, compost and mulching pruning residues – with major benefits for soil health.

A new HAL funded project is now examining this issue. This 3 year project will build on the DAFF work, using the same sites and treatments. For cherry orchards, the effects of lucerne, straw and compost mulches on irrigation needs, soil biological activity, nutrient requirements and – most importantly - fruit quality and yield will be assessed.

Information on the trial progress will be available from early next year on the Applied Horticultural Research website (www.ahr.com.au). Or, interested growers can contact us directly for more information.



Dr Gordon Rogers
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**Wishing all cherry growers and their families a happy and safe Christmas.
Thank You for your support in 2013
see you in 2014**



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Biosecurity for U-pick orchards

During spring and summer many fruit producers and wineries encourage customers to visit their properties to pick their own fruit. But any visitors to a property can unintentionally bring pests, diseases and weed seeds with them. The Farm Biosecurity program offers tips and hints that help you to reduce the risk that any on-farm visitors can pose.

Practices that you can employ to address the biosecurity concerns associated with inviting customers onto your farm include:

- Providing a dedicated parking area for visitors to easily access the picking area, but located well away from production areas.
- Asking visitors to wash their hands before entering the picking area.
- Providing a footbath for visitors to clean their shoes or provide alternative footwear (such as gumboots) for use while picking.
- Having a dedicated area where members of the public can pick fruit which is separate from the main production areas.
- Using signs to make sure that visitors know where they can and cannot go on your property.
- Checking the areas visited by customers frequently for signs of diseases, pests and weeds.
- Planting sentinel trees (varieties that are particularly susceptible to diseases or pests) to act as a focus for potential pest infestation and provide early warning of an incursion.

These simple measures can go a long way towards preventing unwanted diseases, pests and weeds while still encouraging people to visit your business and enjoy the farm environment.

There's a short video on the Farm Biosecurity website farmbiosecurity.com.au that gives ideas on managing biosecurity risks associated with visitors to farms.

Dr Frank van de Loo, viticulturalist and manager at Mt Majura vineyard near Canberra, features in the video. He explains how he deals with vineyard visitors to deal with biosecurity risks, particularly grapevine phylloxera, a pest found in other areas of Australia.

“Customers who come to the winery can go for a walk through the vineyard,” he said. “We call it our Gumboot Tour. They have to have their shoes cleaned, because they might be coming from another grape growing region. So we either spray off their shoes or we get them to change into our gumboots, which are okay.”

The Farm Biosecurity program run jointly by PHA and AHA encourages producers of all kinds to protect themselves from introducing pests and diseases onto their property through simple practices.

The website includes a farm profiler that quickly tailors the information that you see to meet all your needs, even if you have livestock and crops of different kinds. Secure your farm, secure your future.





Plant Exports Management System Information for industry, exporters and Authorised Officers



If you export plants or plant products from Australia or are a plant exports Authorised Officer, you need to know that there is a new IT system to simplify the plant export documentation process—the Plant Exports Management System (PEMS).

PEMS will reduce the average documentation time for commodity inspections—saving you time and money. It will facilitate a range of processes that will enable efficient export of plants and plant products from Australia.

PEMS will optimise the export inspection and documentation process through the efficient storage, transmission and reporting of inspection records and supporting documentation.

PEMS is being developed by the Department of Agriculture.

What does this mean for me?

PEMS will make plant export operations more efficient and reliable by:

- reducing data entry times
- validating Authorised Officer competencies automatically
- storing inspection records and supporting documentation
- eliminating double handling of documents
- allowing you to electronically request authorisation of your RFP (due for inclusion in release two of PEMS, April 2014)
- being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- providing inspection documentation to exporters electronically.

When will PEMS be available?

Release one is scheduled for November 2013 and PEMS will be rolled out across Australia between November 2013 and June 2014.

Release two is scheduled for April 2014 which will include the capacity to use PEMS when offline and contain provisions to record Export Compliant Goods Storage documentation.

Key points

- PEMS will work on a range of devices such as desktop computers, laptops and tablets
- PEMS will make documentation processes more efficient, reducing export time
- PEMS will centralise and store export documentation. This will make keeping accurate records easier and accessing them faster
- PEMS will have an offline mode (release two)
- exporters will be able to request inspection appointments from the Department of Agriculture electronically through PEMS (release two)
- RFP authorisation will be requested from the Department of Agriculture electronically through PEMS (release two).



Quick facts

- proforma phytosanitary certificates will no longer be issued
- adjustments to records saved in PEMS can be made by Authorised Officers or some departmental staff if required
- PEMS can create reports for your establishment based on inspection data. This data will be stored in PEMS for seven years.

How will I know how to use it?

Instructional material will be available in December 2013, available online at: daff.gov.au/plantexportmanual. PEMS will also include an inbuilt help system to help you learn how to use it.

Face-to-face training will be available for internal and external Authorised Officers. Authorised Officers will be informed of training details and will be able to register themselves for training.

For more information

For more information go to daff.gov.au/plantexports or contact DAFF Plant Export Operations.

Plant Export Operations provides important information through regular industry advice notices. Subscribe to receive these updates by visiting daff.gov.au/plant-stakeholder-registration.



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As previously reported in the Cherry Newsletter, the Cherry Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) and industry leadership more broadly have identified market access as an even more important key priority for investment of cherry industry levies. This message was reinforced at the recent Cherry Industry Levy Payers meeting and endorsed at the August 2013 IAC meeting. The IAC remains cognisant of the need to ensure market access attracts sufficient weight of investment in the overall program. To this end some specific investments in smaller but exceptionally important activities to further market access into mainland China have been made in the latter part of 2013. These activities are being funded under the banner of 'Strategic development for market access' and support some of the existing and ongoing investments in market access such as 'Export development for Australian cherries'.

Another initiative of interest to the cherry industry focussing on market access is currently underway in the HAL across industry program. The project, known as 'SIT', which stands for Sterile Insect Technology, is a partnership between HAL, Primary Industries SA, CSIRO and Plant & Food Research Australia. A \$3m facility will be built by the South Australian Government to breed male-only sterile Queensland fruit flies (QFF) for release in targeted areas to breed with wild female QFF. Of particular application is in regions where QFF outbreaks occur causing major issues for market access and area freedom both domestically and internationally. The facility will be a first for Australia.

Two final reports funded through HAL relating to the cherry industry have been lodged in recent weeks. Copies of the reports are now available through HAL or through the members section of the CGA website (along with numerous other great reports worthy of a read). The first, 'Bridging the gap between research and industry', involved the attendance of a number of cherry industry representatives and horticultural researchers at the International Society for Horticultural Science 7th International Cherry Symposium in Plasencia, Spain. Australia was represented well at the symposium with a number of presentations outlining work undertaken by Australian researchers and funded through HAL. Some excellent spill over benefits include broadening collaboration with other researchers and their associated work as well as opportunities to access excellent international research for application on Australian farms.

The second report, 'Australian Cherry Industry Conference 2013', includes copies of all presentations from the keynote addresses from Canberra in the form of conference proceedings. One of the underlying themes from the conference was all things market access, which continues to be held up as a key priority for industry investment. Contact details are available for direct interaction with the presenters for those wishing to explore the topics further.

Notwithstanding initiatives underway, HAL and the IAC remain committed to maintaining a watching brief on the current and future investment mix to ensure they meet market access and other priorities under the plan.

Stuart Burgess
Cherry Industry Services Manager
Stuart.Burgess@horticulture.com.au



Horticulture Australia

7th cherry international SIMPOSIUM

The third (Rootstocks, Varieties & Evaluation) and fourth (Tree Physiology) sessions of the 7th International Cherry Symposium were full of great information. The third session started with a key note address from Professor Lynn Long, Oregon State University; “Partnering with Producers and Consumers to Enhance Cultivar and Rootstock”. Prof. Long emphasised the fact that a poor first experience of cherries would deter consumers from repeat buying for up to 6 weeks, and that consumers choose cherries according to visible characteristics. Figure 1 shows consumer preferences’ for colour, size and shape determined from a large consumer trial. Prof. Long followed by explaining that return buying was dependant on flavour, and that this invariably meant sweetness. Lack of flavour in the trial was described by the majority of participants as either a lack of sweetness, or overwhelming tartness. He went on to describe some of the varieties in the ‘Pearl’ series from Cornell (described in the last issue – October) and some additional varieties from Washington State University (Kiona, Benton and Cowiche – Figure 2). Kiona is a lighter coloured cherry with good flavour, but no showing high firmness. Benton is darker, large, showing some resistance to cracking, but shows low productivity. Cowiche also shows some resistance to cracking and is large with excellent flavour, but suffers from pitting and softens when shipped. Prof. Long explained that growers in the Pacific North West are looking for varieties that show precocity (good flowering), moderate vigour, and ease of production systems for maintenance of leaf to fruit ratio. Some evaluation of different systems was then presented by Prof. Terence Robinson (Figure 3) showing the influence of system on yields of Lapins and Regina. This also highlighted the strong seasonal influence on yield.

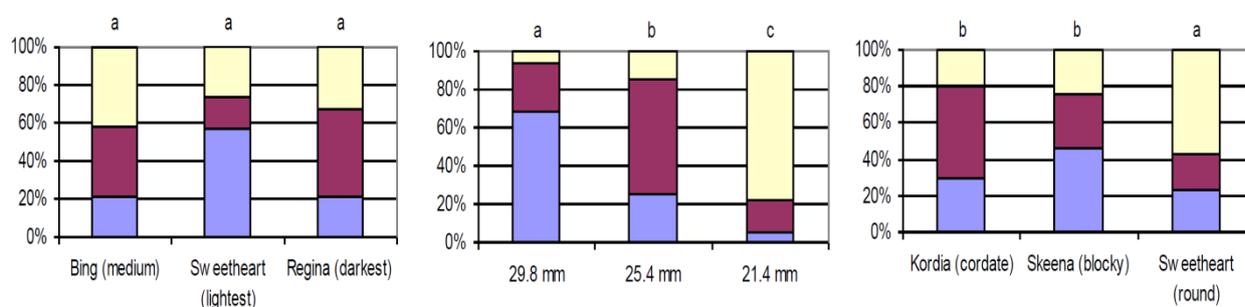


Figure 1. Consumer preference for colour, size and shape of sweet cherry (blue = most likely to buy, purple = more likely, yellow = less likely).



Figure 2. Kiona, Benton and Cowiche cherry varieties

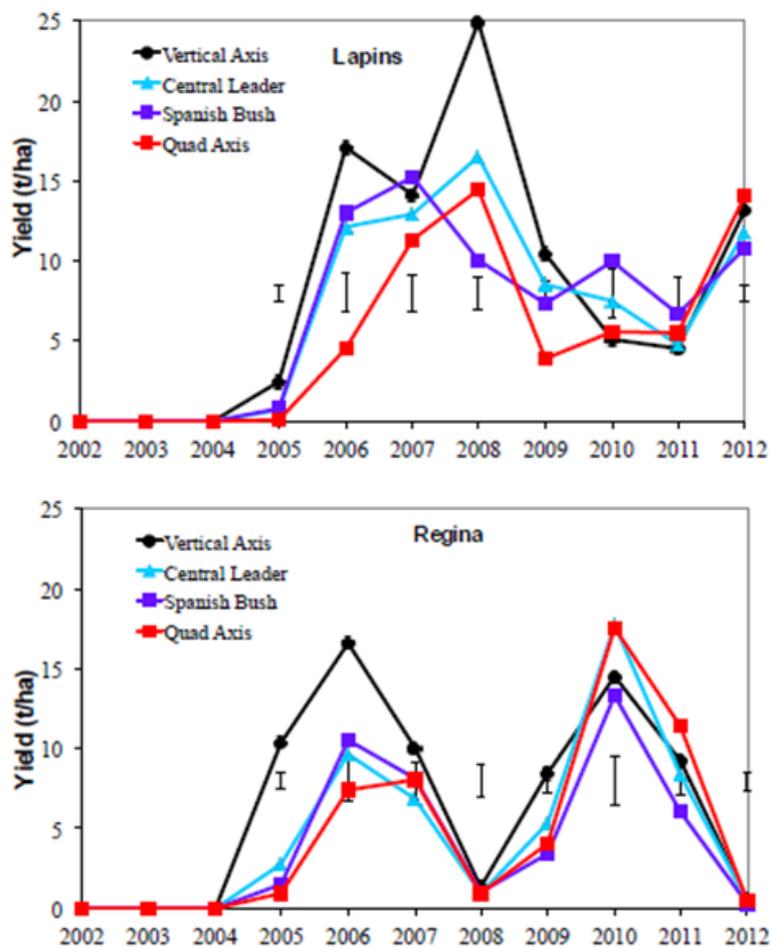


Figure 3. Yields of Lapins and Regina on different orchard systems.

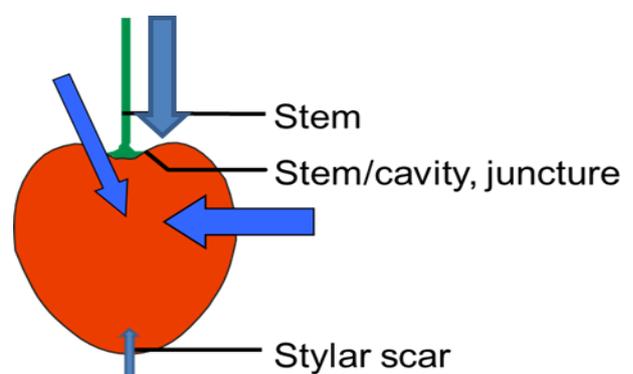
Jef Vercammen (Belgium) and Elzbieta Rozpara (Poland) both explained evaluation processes and presented evaluations of varieties in their respective locations. Of considerable personal interest was the description of the variety Penny; “Penny is partial to cracking”, with which I could only agree! The variety Vanda (Van x Kordia) remains the most consistent performer in Poland. And a plethora of posters were presented describing the performance of varieties in potentially new production regions of Europe.

The fourth session on Tree physiology focussed on some of the underlying scientific principles explaining fruit quality. The keynote presentation from Maria Herrero, Spain, started this session with a presentation on floral biology. She explained that floral biology and effective pollination period (EPP) had a large impact on fruit set. Pollination period comprises stigma receptivity, pollen tube growth and ovule longevity. During pollination all these processes can be affected by temperature and humidity. In general high temperatures accelerate pollen tube growth, but also induce degeneration of the ovule. Low temperatures slow pollen tube growth but can extend the pollination period by extending ovule longevity. Further variability in pollination and fruit set can be explained by flower quality; nutrition and carbohydrate levels. Some work that was undertaken in Chile and presented by Karen Sagredo aimed to make the best use of the pollination period of Kordia and Regina. The EPP for these varieties was found to be 6 days and 8 days respectively. The study explored the use of alternative pollinators during the EPP and increased fruit set to 30% in Kordia and 40% for Regina. The study found that Summit and Schneider were the best pollinators for Regina, and Sunburst for Kordia.

Todd Einhorn from Oregon State University then presented a model developed to represent growth patterns of fruit from bud break to harvest. Of the varieties assessed he found that little difference between varieties was seen in the early stages of development, that Stage II of development lasted for several weeks, and that differences between varieties were more apparent in later stages. His work also concluded that fruit cell division ceased soon after full bloom, again highlighting the importance of the bloom period in determining fruit quality.

The focus then moved to fruit cracking. Herman Silva discussed some preliminary work exploring the composition of cuticular wax, and attempts to link different wax components with cracking susceptibility. Prof. Moritz Knoche, from Germany, then described a model that had the potential to explain cracking in terms of a complete water budget. This takes into consideration all the different pathways for water uptake by the fruit (Figure 4) that have been independently studied (including research from Australia!), and additionally combines them with environmental conditions. Australian research (HAL funded - cherry industry levy and matched funds from the Australian Government) presented by Penny Measham ended the session by describing the positive effects of foliar-applied calcium at any stage of fruit development on skin strength, and stem pull force; and when applied throughout the season on fruit firmness. Fertigated fruit had a higher proportion of calcium in the fruit flesh, which may prove to be of benefit in post-harvest storage.

Figure 4. Potential pathways for water uptake resulting in fruit cracking



A visit to a newly designed packing facility in the Jerte Valley was of interest to the attending researchers and growers alike. It had been designed in consultation with Professor Juan-Pablo Zoffoli of Chile. The hydro cooler was placed well to receive fruit immediately from entering transport and cooled fruit to 1°C. Fruit was then stored at this temperature until the sorting line could be accessed. Prior to sorting fruit was allowed to reach 4-5°C. No chemicals were permitted for use in-line; reliance for hygiene control was based on essential oils such as Thyme Oil. Once packed (2 kilo boxes) fruit temperature was again lowered to 0-1°C by forced- air cooling.

During the field trip only one commercial orchard was visited. The orchard had only recently been planted, with trees in their second leaf. They were planted in hilled rows, to a bush system on poor soils with dripper irrigation. Plastic sheeting was used to reduce water loss given the hot, dry conditions, and this also allowed for no herbicide use within the rows. However, growers commented that this was also causing problems with soil logging and nutrient deficiencies. A research orchard, also in the Jerte Valley, was also on the agenda. This orchard was much older; the purpose of which was to evaluate different varieties for performance in the region. This orchard had no uniform system, and contained many 'Picota' varieties. Sample boxes of these Picota cherries were available to participants (Figure 5). Yum!



Figure 5. Dr. Mekjell Meland from Norway excited to try the Picota cherries from the Jerte Valley.



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PRIMARY
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Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) FACT SHEET

PREMIUM
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR
CLEAN
ENVIRONMENT



Fruit fly is the world's most damaging fruit and vegetable insect pest.

In Australia two kinds of fruit fly – either Mediterranean or Queensland – are major pests in some mainland states except South Australia which is fruit fly free.

Sterile Insect Technology (known as SIT) will see South Australia take the lead in scientifically combating Queensland fruit fly and help protect the nation's horticultural production.

Each year South Australia spends around \$5 million annually to maintain our fruit fly free status.

This provides significant benefit to horticultural growers and exporters who don't have to spend millions of dollars to treat fruit destined for interstate or overseas.

Sterile Insect Technology, known as SIT, is a method in which sterile male fruit flies are released to mate with wild female fruit flies.

SIT is safe and environmentally friendly. It can be used in orchards, urban and environmentally sensitive areas, and where conventional chemical treatment isn't possible or is too intrusive.

The South Australian Government will build a \$3 million facility where male-only sterile Queensland fruit flies can be bred.

This will be a first for Australia.

Pupae produced at the facility will be sold around Australia for release where Q-fly is a major problem in horticulture production areas.

Development of a male-only line of Q-fly will be spearheaded by research partners: the CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship, Horticulture Australia Ltd and Plant & Food Research Australia.

The new facility will help eradicate incursions of Q-fly into South Australia and control Q-fly in major horticulture production areas in the eastern States, while maintaining our State's leadership in biosecurity.

Development of SIT to combat fruit fly in Australia is a further demonstration of the South Australian Government's Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment strategic priority.

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EXPORT

Insights



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

SINGAPORE

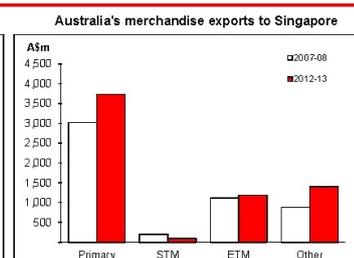
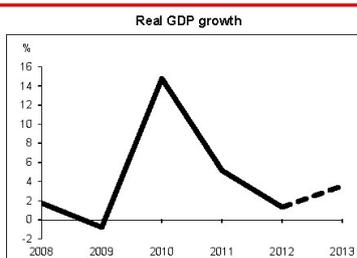


General information:

Fact sheets are updated biannually, June and December

Capital:	Singapore	Head of State:	President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam
Surface area:	1 thousand sq km	Head of Government:	Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong
Official languages:	Malay; Chinese (Mandarin); Tamil; English		
Population:	5.3 million (2012)		
Exchange rate:	A\$1 = S\$1.1517 (Aug 2013)		

Recent economic indicators:	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012(a)	2013(b)
GDP (US\$bn) (current prices):	190.6	188.8	231.7	265.6	276.5	287.4
GDP PPP (Int'l \$bn) (c):	251.6	251.5	292.2	313.3	323.0	339.0
GDP per capita (US\$):	39,383	37,860	45,639	51,242	52,052	52,918
GDP per capita PPP (Int'l \$) (c):	51,986	50,430	57,556	60,441	60,799	62,428
Real GDP growth (% change yoy):	1.7	-0.8	14.8	5.2	1.3	3.5
Current account balance (US\$m):	28,838	33,482	62,026	65,323	51,437	53,071
Current account balance (% GDP):	15.1	17.7	26.8	24.6	18.6	18.5
Goods & services exports (% GDP):	233.5	196.7	203.9	207.3	200.6	193.0
Inflation (% change yoy):	6.6	0.6	2.8	5.2	4.6	2.3



Australia's trade and investment relationship with Singapore (d):

Australian merchandise trade with Singapore, 2012-13[†]:		Total share:	Rank:	Growth (yoy):
Exports to Singapore (A\$m):	6,421	2.6%	8th	-2.1%
Imports from Singapore (A\$m):	14,391	6.1%	4th	-3.2%
Total trade (exports + imports) (A\$m):	20,812	4.3%	5th	-2.9%

Major Australian exports, 2012-13 (A\$m):		Major Australian imports, 2012-13 (A\$m):	
Crude petroleum	1,760	Refined petroleum	9,402
Gold	945	Ships & boats (incl hovercraft)	644
Refined petroleum	834	Edible products & preparations	643
Animal oils & fats	211	Medicaments (incl veterinary)	385

Australia's trade in services with Singapore, 2012-13:		Total share:
Exports of services to Singapore (A\$m):	3,584	6.8%
Imports of services from Singapore (A\$m):	4,626	7.2%

Major Australian service exports, 2012-13 (A\$m):		Major Australian service imports, 2012-13 (A\$m):	
Prof, tech & other business services	1,326	Transport	2,755
Transport	655	Prof, tech & other business services	671

Australia's investment relationship with Singapore, 2012 (e):		Total:	FDI:
Australia's investment in Singapore (A\$m):		26,661	10,828
Singapore's investment in Australia (A\$m):		55,938	23,823

Singapore's global merchandise trade relationships:

Singapore's principal export destinations, 2012:			Singapore's principal import sources, 2012:		
1	Malaysia	12.3%	1	Malaysia	10.6%
2	Hong Kong (SAR of China)	11.0%	2	China	10.3%
3	China	10.8%	3	United States	10.2%
7	Australia	4.2%	18	Australia	1.3%

Compiled by the Trade Advocacy and Statistics Section, DFAT, using the latest data from the ABS, the IMF and various international sources.

(a) All recent data subject to revision, (b) IMF/EIU forecast, (c) PPP is purchasing power parity, (d) Total may not add due to rounding, (e) Stock, as at 31 December. Released annually by the ABS. na Data not available. np Data not published. . Data not meaningful. *May exclude some confidential items of trade.

EXPORT INSIGHTS

By Wayne Prowse

Singapore, a market of 5.3 million people (equal to 25 per cent of the Australian population) squeezed onto a small island, is a valuable though often overlooked market for Australian cherries. The market is one of the most sophisticated in Asia with modern retail formats. In 2012/13 Australian cherries accounted for some 65 per cent of the cherries exported to Singapore during the southern hemisphere season or 363 tonnes.

As one of the leading commercial and financial hubs, the country has the world's seventh highest per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the CIA World Factbook. Some 40 per cent of the population are international expatriates, over 80 per cent work in the services industry and Singapore is almost 100 per cent urbanised. These demographics should measure up to a market with a strong demand for premium quality fruit imports.

The market may not be large however it is consistent and the demand seems to be filled by whoever can provide a consistent quality supply and deliver retail programs with promotions for the two major retailers – NTUC Fairprice and Cold Storage.



There are no tariffs or phytosanitary trade barriers meaning that Singapore is more open to competitors than most other markets.

This presents both challenges and opportunities. As a sophisticated market with a large retail sector the trade expects a long line of consistent quality fruit rather than intermittent supplies. Collaborative work by exporters could potentially supply a steady

program of cherries late November to end January. The demand is relatively stable and retailers know the type of volumes that can be moved at different price points. Not to be content with 500 tonnes per southern season a serious program could generate category growth.

With more **competitors** in the market the buyers are able to source from different countries to meet their price objectives and as the table shows the suppliers market share changed significantly over the last 3 years even though the total supply did not. Yes Australia was almost out of the market in the two years that we had low stocks (and higher prices for those able to sell any volume) though is back to a strong market leader position in 2012/13 – though at what cost?

EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE - SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE SEASON

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	share
Australia	51	113	363	66%
Chile	233	254	101	19%
New Zealand	136	84	83	15%
Argentina	35	57	19	3%
				0%
Total from Southern Hemisphere (tonnes)	456	450	547	100%

Source : ITC Comtrade; Fresh Intelligence analysis

Recall that prices were too low last year and there was a certain amount of buying back into the market. Chilean volumes dropped although they had a poorer season anyway. Arguably if Australia was really export focussed the Singapore market could have been looked after better during the low volume years – after all the volumes needed were not large – and could have generated the 2012/13 volume at a more sustainable price point.

Australia should also use our strategic advantage in location that cannot be challenged. We are the closest southern supplier to Singapore by sea or air (and mostly by air). Australian cherries should arrive in better condition than anywhere else.

Fact and Figures –

Cherry Imports by Australia 2013

99.7% supplied from United States

	Jan - Sep 2013	% chg LY
Tonnes	2,299	-54%
Value	A\$18.31 m	-34%
A\$ per kg	\$7.97	+\$2.37

STATE REPORTS



At the time of writing this report (last week of November) our season in NSW is well underway. The Young district is harvesting excellent quality Rons seedling now, Mudgee is through Rons and looking towards Bing timing and the Orange district has perhaps picked a few Chelan's. Early and mid-season varieties have been generally well down in yield, but some of the later maturing self-fertile varieties have excellent crops. To date weather conditions have been reasonable with harvest interrupted in Young for a few days during mid-November only. A narrow strip of hail in the Orange district devastated a small number of growers but the damage was not widespread.

Packing sheds have reported strong enquiry for the limited supply of cherries from both domestic and export buyers. Modest volumes of cherries have left most districts for export and with more export suitable varieties ripening from here on in it is anticipated that export tonnage will quickly increase. Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam are the main markets for NSW growers at this time.

In the Young district, the Eastlake family at Fairfields Orchards and in Orange, Bernard and Fiona Hall of Caernarvon Cherry Company, have all made significant capital investments by way of new optical sorting cherry lines. Cherry packaging material is now being routinely sourced by growers from Chinese manufacturers.

The NSW cherry industry is on notice that the Fair Work Ombudsman is intending to carry out an extensive series of audits throughout this summer's harvest. Grower meetings have been held in both Young and Orange to bring producers up to date with current workplace legislation.

With a good crop underway lets trust that the cherry gods remain kind to us and that the reality of summer need not replace the optimism of spring once again for our industry!

Andrew Gartrell
President
New South Wales Cherry Growers Association

REFRACTOMETERS FOR SALE

Check the brix of your cherries
before harvest

0-32 Brix \$89.95 plus postage

0-80 Brix Jam Refractometers \$134.00 plus postage

Now in stock - phone CGA/FGT to place an order.



STATE REPORTS



Fruit
Growers
Tasmania Inc

Since the last report it has been a busy time for the fruit industry with a variety of industry activities and the usual pre harvest organisation. Recent grower seminars included a China crop monitor workshop in mid October and a cherry night seminar in mid November. The night seminar was very well supported with over 50 people in attendance. Topics included carbohydrates and fruit quality, summer fertigation and hydro-cooling. We are grateful to Westpac for sponsoring the dinner for this seminar and also for presenting on future interest and exchange rates.

Despite generally windy conditions across the state and higher than average rainfall, fortunately severe weather events have generally not had any impact, with the exception of a few unfortunate isolated frost and hail incidents.

Cherry harvest has started for a handful of early varieties, although the main crop will not come on line until the last week of December. Indications are for a good volume of cherries from across the state, albeit not as many tonnes as last season.

We are hopeful that export volumes will be high again this season with a large number of growers registering for export to countries including Taiwan, China, Korea and Japan. There has been a large number of export enquiries, particularly for cherries into China. At the point of writing this report we also have an inspector from Japan's MAFF conducting audits of Japan registered orchards and packhouses.

The 6th Tasmanian Fruits Farm Gate Guide was launched in mid November at

"Somercotes" in the midlands of Tasmania. This year's guide features 49 farm gate businesses, as well as a separate "cider trail", given the popularity of the growing cider industry both across Tasmania and nationally. The Guide has been distributed across the state through tourism centres, airports, farm gate growers, restaurants, cafes, and other relevant outlets.

Last season saw the launch of an iPhone App to accompany the Farm Gate Guide, and we are now working on an Android version for this season which will hopefully be up and running soon.

We recently held our Annual Golf Day and Christmas BBQ in the Coal River Valley with over 40 growers and industry stakeholders attending. With some fantastic prizes on offer and catering sponsored by VISY, it was a great afternoon and a nice way to celebrate the year before the fruit harvest.

Our office is currently receiving a high number of enquiries from people wanting picking jobs. Whilst most growers and packers are likely not short of seasonal workers, any who are needing staff are welcome to contact our office and we can direct enquiries to you.

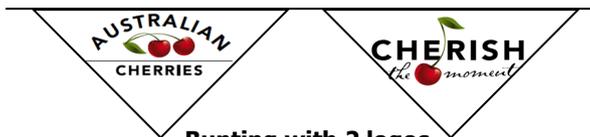
Nick Featherstone
Executive Officer
Fruit Growers Tasmania

"CHERISH THE MOMENT" — PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL



T-Shirts (white) with "Cherish the Moment" logo on front
Each @ \$12.20 inc GST

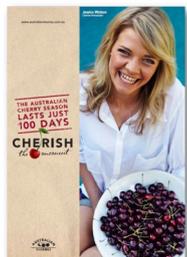
**** Only 7 x XL size remaining ****



Bunting with 2 logos
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A2 Posters — Double Sided

Lots of 20



Front

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T-Shirts (stone) with "Cherish the Moment" slogans on front and back
Each @ \$15.00 inc GST
Sizes - Small & Medium

**** Please note that postage is not included in the prices above ****



CHERRY GROWERS AUSTRALIA NEW RELEASE CHERRY COLOUR GUIDE & SIZER



Cherry Growers Australia and Graham's Factree have just released a new edition of the Australian Cherry Colour Guide & Sizer. The Guides are made from plastic, are durable and waterproof.

The cost of the Guide is \$10 each plus GST, postage & handling.

Contact CGA Office to place your order
office@cherrygrowers.org.au