

Fruit Drops

Latest NZ Apple Import Risk Assessment Out

The latest version of NZ Apple IRA has been released for comment. All interested growers and people are urged to contact Biosecurity Australia for a hard copy (**phone (02) 6272 5094**), or alternatively download it from the web page. Growers have been given 120 days from release to submit responses. More work on other exotic pests and diseases has been done in this version.

The release of the document, which proposes such measures as in-field inspections by AQIS (blight affected orchards then excluded from export for the season), chlorine dipping and cold storage has caused uproar in NZ with growers saying that the measures are still too trade restrictive and they are threatening to take the issue to the World Trade Organisation.

<http://www.ffa.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia>

Agfacts and Primefacts on the web

Did you know that there are a lot of fact sheets on the web that are relevant to fruit growers?

Since NSW DPI was formed Primefacts have replaced the Agfact format. You also now have a choice when downloading new Primefacts as either WORD or PDF format.

Click on the links below to access the fact sheets.

Orchard Management:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/apple_and_pear_nutrition

Economics:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/cherry_costs

Diseases:

Bacterial spot of stone fruit:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/bacterial_spot

Bacterial canker of stone fruit:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/bacterial_canker

Rust of stone fruit

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/rust_of_stone_fruit

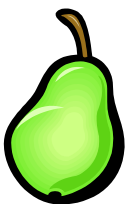
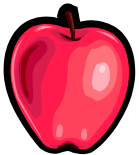
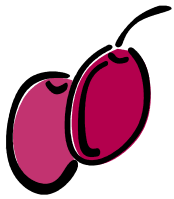
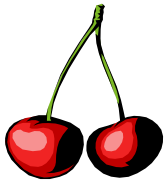
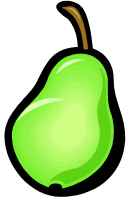
Disorders:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/primefacts/watercore-of-apples>

Melbourne Market Authority launches Market Fresh

The Melbourne wholesale markets have launched a website dedicated to information on fresh fruits and vegetables. Pages include a Kids section, recipes (with "how to" video clips, and an independent retail greengrocer list.

Check it out at <http://www.marketfresh.com.au>



Horticultural Field Day at Orange Ag Institute

After the success of The Australian National Field Days (ANFD) Horticulture Field Day in February 2005 the ANFD are preparing for the next horticultural field day for the Wednesday the 15th of February 2006. The event will be conducted at NSW DPI Orange Agricultural Institute located on Forest Rd Orange.

Points of interest will include commercial exhibits, product demonstrations and technical talks to provide orchardists with a look at the latest technologies. The innovative Horticulture Award will also be presented on the day.

This will be the final horticultural field day to be held off the Borenore site which has had significant work in the orchard in preparation for regular field days in the future. It is anticipated that the horticultural field days will continue every second year at the Borenore site.

The ANFD has commenced designing the layout for commercial exhibits and has had some excellent preliminary discussions with potential exhibitors. It is intended to have both indoor and outdoor sites, catering for visitors and significant parking facilities at Orange Agricultural institute site.

The ANFD will be undertaking extensive promotional activities for the Horticultural Field Day so visitors will be expected from the main fruit and vegetable growing areas of NSW.

Exhibitors are asked to contact the ANFD Office now to ensure they receive the Prospectus.

Contact details are:

David Lamrock
Australian National Field Days
PO Box 2150
Orange NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6362 1588; Fax: 02 6362 5421
Email: info@anfd.com.au

Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed Finalised!

Plant Health Australia
26 October 2005

In what is a world first for Australian plant industries the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) has now been finalised with all state and territory governments having ratified the document. The Deed is now in effect and ready to be used in the event of an emergency plant pest incursion. The ground breaking Deed will result in faster, more successful and less costly responses to emergency plant pests (EPP's) that could significantly impact on Australia's \$20.3 billion plant industries.

Preliminary negotiations on the agreement, coordinated by Plant Health Australia, began in mid 2001 following the release of a discussion paper. The negotiations were undertaken by the broad membership of PHA, and involved plant industry members, the Australian government, and all state and territory governments.

"The EPPRD provides a more responsive, effective and efficient mechanism for governments and industry to work together to reduce the risks and share the costs and responsibility of responding to EPP's. A close partnership between government and industry in funding and managing responses to

emergency plant pests is a far better and more sustainable alternative to the current informal arrangements, and will also support measures to reduce the risk of plant pest incursions," Mr Inglis said.

The ratification of the EPPRD means that a large percentage of Australia's commercial plant producers will be covered by, and will benefit from, more coordinated and effective emergency response arrangements. Under the Deed, funding arrangements are agreed in advance enabling eradication efforts to commence promptly when there is a serious pest outbreak.

"Now that the Deed has been ratified plant industries will, for the first time, formally participate in the decision making processes involved in managing pest incursion responses," Mr Inglis explained. The Deed involves a categorisation process which categorises the most serious plant pests which in turn determines the relative industry and government funding of eradication efforts, based on which sector benefits most from eradicating the pest in question.

Owner reimbursement costs, which are one of the most important elements of the Deed, will include the costs of destroying infected crops or other items and activities required as part of a response plan which are above and beyond growers' normal operational costs. This will help reduce disincentives to report suspected pest outbreaks and responses will begin more rapidly – leading to a greater likelihood of successful eradication and lower costs for both industry and government.

NSW Apple Survey- "Future Focus"- Part One

Julie Dart
District Horticulturist, Tumut

In May 2005, NSW DPI staff conducted a survey of NSW apple growers to try and find out where the industry is now, and where it sees itself in the future. This was mainly to determine what barriers growers had to the uptake of new practices, and what skills growers thought they may need to make necessary change.

The survey was conducted by mail out. In a bid to ensure a degree of privacy, growers were asked to send the reply paid envelope to another district for collation. No reminders were sent.

Response rate: Out of 124 surveys sent, 44 were returned, giving an overall return rate of 35%. Surveys were sent to the following areas:

- Central Tablelands (Orange, Borenore)
- Southern (Tumut, Batlow, Adelong)
- Sydney and Surrounds (Camden, Bilpin)

So what did we find?

From the returned surveys, 43 growers have a total of 1005.8 hectares under apples, with a total of 1171 years of growing experience between them.

The majority of growers (64%) farm 20 hectares or less of apples. Larger farms were found in the Orange and Batlow districts. This is in line with recent research also conducted at a similar time by Apple and Pear Australia Limited.

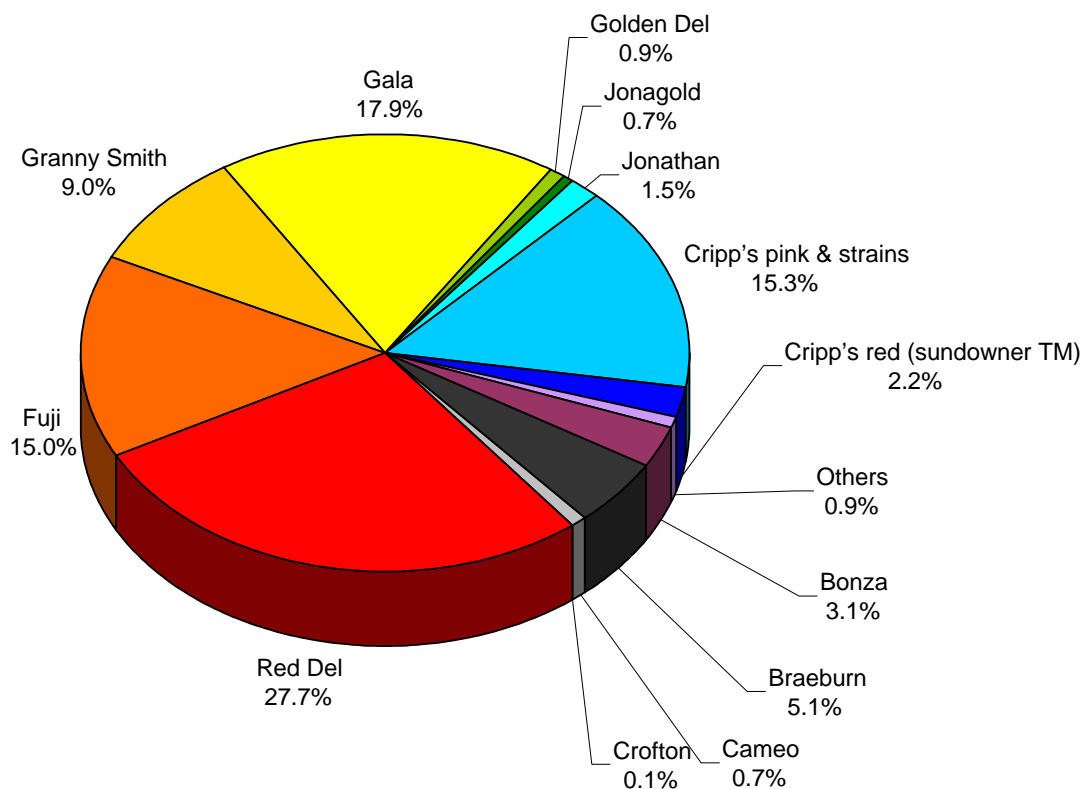
Part one- the farm environment:

Most growers (88%) surveyed described their apple producing land as having a gentle to moderate slope.

Varieties:

From the survey, the most planted variety is still Red Delicious and its strains, although Royal Gala and Fuji are close behind. Growers were asked to indicate roughly what percentage of the orchard is planted to the varieties in the graph below. These were then added to give an overall NSW picture.

Variety breakdown



Of course the varietal mix changes between districts, due to differences in climate. The "top 5" by district area is summarised below. Figures are hectares planted.

	Batlow	Orange	Sydney
1	Red Delicious 168.3	Red Delicious 155.8	Gala 24.8
2	Gala 85.6	Gala 54.7	Cripp's Pink 5.9
3	Fuji 82.8	Granny Smith 49.6	Red Delicious 5.5
4	Cripp's Pink** 77.2	Fuji 48.7	Fuji 4.1
5	Granny & Braeburn 33.3 each	Cripp's Pink 39.8	Granny Smith 3.4

** Cripp's Pink and strains (Rosy Glow, Pink Kiss etc) are commonly marketed as Pink Lady™ apples.

Future plantings:

From the survey, 28 growers indicated their ideal variety mix. From the combined results, the future top 5 may be:

- Cripp's Pink & strains -23.2%
- Gala- 22.8%
- Fuji- 14.4%
- Granny Smith- 12.8%
- Red Delicious-12.4%

Density:

Growers were asked to list the furthest and closest plantings on their properties.

- The lowest reported density: 278 trees/ha (6x6m)
- Highest density: 2857 trees/ha (1x 3.5m)

The average closer planting is around 2m x 4.5m (1299 trees/ha)

Height: Most growers limit tree height to 3m, maximum 4m.

Systems: The majority of growers are using central leader planting systems (77.8%) with 10% each for vase and "slender spindle" systems. Only 1 grower surveyed has a V-trellis system.

Trees Purchased:

Most growers prefer to purchase feathered trees (64%) although some growers still purchase rods/whips (32%). The remaining 4% would like to purchase Knipp Baum trees if they were available.

Tree quality was an issue with nine growers (28%), who indicated that either tree quality was poor, or they couldn't get what they wanted e.g.: would prefer to purchase feathered trees "But rods are all you can get". (Growers were not asked how far ahead they usually placed tree orders).

Two growers (6%) indicated that the quality of nursery trees "had improved over the last 5 years" and "Usually very good- except for some mix-ups".

Two growers (6%) indicated that they grow their own trees.

At the recent APAL-AFFCO conference, nursery tree quality came up as a big issue, however there seems to be problems from both sides of the industry – with growers "leaving orders too late- and having to take whatever was left" and nurseries frustrated with "cancelled orders/ or changes to varieties ordered" being a common problem.

For the issues of tree quality to be resolved, there needs to be improvements made on both sides of the equation. Feathered and "Knipp" trees take 2 years to grow in the field, so thus planning needs to be at least two years ahead for growers to ensure that they can get what they need. Nurseries are unlikely to go to the expense of growing trees on from the 1 year old rod stage if they are uncertain that the trees will sell. Knipp trees also require a higher level of management than rods in their first year in the nursery.

Growers and nursery staff need to discuss and document acceptable standards such as minimum size, number of branches etc when trees are ordered, to avoid disappointment at delivery.

New Chemical Use Permits

The APVMA has recently issued the following new minor use permit that applies in NSW.

1. Permit 8721 for weevil control- this permit is a minor use permit allowing the use of Avatar® insecticide to control Apple weevil, Fuller's Rose Weevil and Garden weevil in Apples, pears, apricots, nectarines peaches and plums. This permit is valid in NSW, QLD, TAS and WA only.

2. Two emergency use permits (permits 9075 & 9060) have also been issued, to allow some chemicals to be used in the control of Alternaria spot in apples.

Currently *Alternaria mali* is more of a problem in Queensland and coastal NSW apple growing areas. These permits allow the use of Delan (Dithianon) and Polyram (Metiram).

The permits are reproduced in full over the next few pages. Growers who intend to use the chemicals covered by the permits in all states (except Victoria) **must** have a copy of the permit and have read it (or have read to them) before they use the chemicals according to the conditions of the permit.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2006). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW DPI or the user's independent advisor.

Inclusion of an advertisement or sponsor's symbol in this publication does not necessarily imply endorsement of the product or sponsor by NSW DPI.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural chemical products must always read the label and any Permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the Permit by reason of any statement made or omitted to be made in this publication

EDITOR:

Julie Dart
(Horticulturist, Temperate Fruits)
PO Box 3, Tumut NSW 2720
Ph: (02) 6947 4188
e-mail: Julie.dart@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Suggestions/comments on the content of Fruitwise are welcome.

Fruitwise is an electronic only format newsletter, sent quarterly by e-mail for the interest of commercial fruit growers and industry partners in inland NSW.

To subscribe to Fruitwise contact the editor.



**Australian Pesticides &
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

PERMIT TO ALLOW MINOR USE OF AN AGVET CHEMICAL PRODUCT

PERMIT NUMBER -PER8721

This permit is issued to the Permit Holder in response to an application granted by the APVMA under section 112 of the Agvet Codes of the jurisdictions set out below. This permit allows a person, as stipulated below, to use the product in the manner specified in this permit in the designated jurisdictions. This permit also allows any person to claim that the product can be used in the manner specified in this permit.

THIS PERMIT IS IN FORCE FROM 22 DECEMBER 2005 TO 31 DECEMBER 2006.

Permit Holder: LANDMARK RURAL PTY LTD Level 8, 8 Bennett Street EAST PERTH WA 6004

Persons who can use the product under this permit:

Persons generally.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Product to be used:

DUPONT AVATAR INSECTICIDE Containing: 400 g/kg INDOXACARB as the only active constituent.

Directions for Use:

Crop	Pest	Rate
Apples, Pears, Apricots, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums.	Apple weevil (<i>Otiorhynchus cribricollis</i>) Fuller's rose weevil (<i>Asynonychus cervinus</i>) Garden weevil (<i>Phlyctinus callosus</i>)	25g product /100L water

Critical Use Comments:

-Apply with orchard sprayer to the canopy of trees.
-Apply at peak weevil emergence and before fruit damage occurs -spring for garden weevil, early summer for apple weevil and Fuller' rose weevil. A second application may be required if sufficient weevils emerge subsequently in early to mid summer.

-Use no more than 2 sprays per season.

-DO NOT use for more than 2 consecutive seasons. If control is required use insecticides from different activity group.

Withholding Period:

Harvest: Apricots, nectarines, peaches, plums: DO NOT apply later than 7 days before harvest.

Apples, pears: DO NOT apply later than 14 days before harvest.

Jurisdiction:

NSW, QLD, TAS, WA only.

Additional Conditions:

THIS PERMIT provides for the use of a product in a manner other than specified on the approved label of the product. Unless otherwise stated in this permit, the use of the product must be in accordance with instructions on its label.

PERSONS who wish to prepare for use and/or use products for the purposes specified in this permit must read, or have read to them, the details and conditions of this permit.

Issued by

Delegated Officer



**Australian Pesticides &
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

**PERMIT TO ALLOW EMERGENCY USE
OF A REGISTERED AGVET CHEMICAL PRODUCT**

PERMIT NUMBER -PER9075

This permit is issued to the Permit Holder in response to an application granted by the APVMA under section 112 of the Agvet Codes of the jurisdictions set out below. This permit allows a person, as stipulated below, to use the product in the manner specified in this permit in the designated jurisdictions. This permit also allows any person to claim that the product can be used in the manner specified in this permit.

THIS PERMIT IS IN FORCE FROM 10 January 2006 until 30 June 2006.

Permit Holder:

APPLE & PEAR AUSTRALIA LTD
C/-AGAWARE CONSULTING P/L
21 Rosella Ave
STRATHFIELDSAYE Vic 3551

Persons who can use the product under this permit:

PERSONS GENERALLY

CONDITIONS OF USE

Product to be used:

DELAN 700 WG FUNGICIDE
CROP CARE DELAN 700 WG FUNGICIDE
Containing: 700 g/kg DITHIANON as their only active constituent.

Directions for Use:

Crop	Pest	Rate
Fuji, gala, pink lady and red delicious apples	Alternaria leaf blotch and Alternaria fruit spot (caused by <i>Alternaria spp.</i>)	18g product / 100L

Critical Use Comments:

Apply as soon as possible after significant rainfall from the onset of fruit maturation. Apply every 7-21 days, depending on the weather. Following heavy rain, wind or hail, use the shorter interval. Make not more than 3 applications in the six week period prior to harvest.

Apply as a foliar spray

Withholding Period:

DO NOT HARVEST FOR 7 DAYS AFTER APPLICATION

Jurisdiction:

NSW, QLD

Additional Conditions:

THIS PERMIT provides for the use of a product in a manner other than specified on the approved label of the product. Unless otherwise stated in this permit, the use of the product must be in accordance with instructions on its label.

PERSONS who wish to prepare for use and/or use products for the purposes specified in this permit must read, or have read to them, the details and conditions of this permit.

Issued by

Delegated Officer



**Australian Pesticides &
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

PERMIT TO ALLOW EMERGENCY USE OF A REGISTERED AGVET CHEMICAL PRODUCT

PERMIT NUMBER -PER9060

This permit is issued to the Permit Holder in response to an application granted by the APVMA under section 112 of the Agvet Codes of the jurisdictions set out below. This permit allows a person, as stipulated below, to use the product in the manner specified in this permit in the designated jurisdictions. This permit also allows any person to claim that the product can be used in the manner specified in this permit.

THIS PERMIT IS IN FORCE FROM 23 December 2005 until 30 June 2006.

Permit Holder:

APPLE & PEAR AUSTRALIA LTD 21 Rosella
Avenue STRATHFIELDSAYE VIC 3551

Persons who can use the product under this permit:

Persons generally

CONDITIONS OF USE

Product to be used:

NUFARM POLYRAM DF FUNGICIDE SPRAY Containing: 700 g/kg METIRAM as the only active constituent.

Directions for Use:

Crop	Pest	Rate
Fuji, gala, pink lady and red delicious apples	Alternaria leaf blotch and Alternaria fruit spot (caused by <i>Alternaria spp.</i>	175g product/100L water

Critical Use Comments:

Apply as soon as possible after significant rainfall from the onset of fruit maturation. Apply every 7-21 days, depending on the weather. Following heavy rain, wind or hail, use the shorter interval. Make not more than 3 applications in the six week period prior to harvest. Apply as a foliar spray using air blast sprayers or equivalent.

Withholding Period:

DO NOT HARVEST FOR 21 DAYS AFTER APPLICATION.

Jurisdiction:

NSW, QLD

Additional Conditions:

THIS PERMIT provides for the use of a product in a manner other than specified on the approved label of the product. Unless otherwise stated in this permit, the use of the product must be in accordance with instructions on its label.

Issued by

Delegated Officer



2006 Horticultural Field Day



Wednesday 15th February at DPI, Orange
Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange,
8.00am - 5.00pm

Features of the field day will include:
technical focus, static displays, machinery
displays and Innovative Horticulture Award.