

Vegetable Industry Development Officers – For June 2002 Issue of Good Fruit & Vegetables – Vegetable Platter.

Victoria

Western Australia

Crop Protection Approvals Visit WA Growers

Photo 1: cpa meeting
Baldivis_crop.jpg: Caption:
Growers at the Crop
Protection Approvals
meeting at Baldivis



Minor use chemical permits are becoming more important to the horticulture industry. Crop Protection Approvals were

established to address minor use issues for the Australian Vegetable Industry. Recently Peter Dal Santo held meetings across WA (Wanneroo, Baldivis, South Perth, Manjimup, and Albany) explaining the AusVeg Minor use program, and the benefits and opportunities for growers.

Growers attending the meeting received considerable knowledge and benefit from Peter's experience and knowledge of the chemical industry and minor use program. We are planning another visit for Peter in approximately twelve months.

Peter highlighted a number of crops that were of concern due to the lack of minor use permits. These included:

Asian vegetables, Artichokes, Celeriac, Chicory, Chilli, Eggplant, Fennel, Okra, Parsley, Parsnip, Radish, Shallots, Snow peas, Swede, Sweet corn, Sweet potato, and Turnips.

If you grow any of these crops it would be beneficial to review your chemical registrations and minor use permits. If you want to put minor use requests to CPA contact your WA IDO, David Ellement, on 08 9456 4077. Note: Your information will be kept confidential.

New South Wales

Building Cross-Tasman Relations

In April the Process Sector Committee of Vegfed (NZ), chaired by Owen Gedye (Gisborne), toured NSW to meet with vegetable growers and develop an understanding of vegetable production in NSW. NSW Ausveg Board Member Jeff McSpedden ('Springfield', Bathurst) led the tour. Kate Ward (Executive Officer, Vegfed), Liz Chamberlain and Lyndel Kruusamagi (NSW Farmers' Association) and Alison Anderson (NSW Vegetable Industry Development Officer) also joined the tour.

In Sydney the group visited Sydney Markets, Leppington Speedy Seedlings, an asian vegetable farm and met with Rod Sherriff (President, NSW Free Growers Horticultural Council) to discuss growing globe artichokes and look at a new seedling transplanter. The group then travelled to Bathurst, Canowindra, Cowra, Forbes and Jugiong to visit farms growing cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, beetroot, melons, sweet corn, carrots, beans, pumpkins, turf, asparagus, and broccolini. Paul McLaughlin ('Tatyoan', Canowindra) who visited NZ last year on the Ausveg funded 'Young Vegetable Growers Tour to NZ' joined the tour while the group was in the Central West and showed the group the packing shed and cool store at 'Tatyoan'. Also visited was David O'Dea's 'Windowrie Estate' winery. On the final day of the tour the group met with Jonathan Eccles (Senior Program Leader, Horticulture Australia) to discuss proposed jointly funded vegetable research by Australia and New Zealand.

All on the tour felt that grower tours were an excellent way to build relations with other growers, learn about new technology and gain new ideas and an insight into vegetable growing in other areas. Paul McLaughlin and other young Australian vegetable growers found last years' tour to NZ very beneficial and as a result another tour to NZ will be held later this year.

(Photo 2, SydneyJeffGaryatJemalong.jpg: Caption: Sydney Judd(Northland/Auckland), Jeff McSpedden and Gary Johnston (Waitmate/North Otago) inspect a sweet corn crop at 'Jemalong Station' near Forbes.



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South Australia

Vegetable Pathologists and IDO's meet in Western Australia

Australia's vegetable pathologists met in Bunbury in WA recently to report, review and revise all current research from Horticulture Australia(HA)/vegetable levy funded and other projects. This is a biennial meeting funded by HA. Elaine Davison and her team from the Western Australian Department of Agriculture organised a full and interesting meeting. Richard Falloon, a New Zealand vegetable pathologist with Crop and Food NZ, also made the 'trup' over for the meeting. The Industry Development Officers from each state were invited to contribute to the communication strategies for the projects. Farm visits as far south as Manjimup where the soils were considerably heavier than the sands around Perth, were included to see local problems and solutions for disease management.



Photo 3: Group.jpg: Caption: National Vegetable Pathologists and Industry Development Officers in Bunbury

Following the Pathology meeting, a well-attended grower meeting was held north of Perth in Wanneroo. The title of the meeting was 'An Evening with Vegetable Diseases', where the local growers took the opportunity to listen to, and pick the brains of the nation's researchers whilst they were available.

The next meeting in 2004 will be held in South Australia.

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Photo4: Manjimup.jpg, Caption: National Vegetable Pathologists and Industry Development Officers inspecting Gary Ryan's Brassicas at Manjimup

Spray management training in SA

An integral component of any WFT management program is correct spray application. To highlight this issue Tony Burfield recently ran some spray management training in Virginia, SA.

Tony said “Our spray management training has really opened the growers’ eyes both to financial and labour savings and improvements in pest control”.

In addition to spray theory the growers take part in spray coverage demonstrations using several different portable spray attachments and comparing jets of different sizes. The results are made highly visible by spraying a fluorescent dye with water and viewing the crop after dark with a UV light.

The dye clearly highlights coverage, droplet size, excess spray and the efficiency of different attachments and jet sizes. The worn versus new jet comparison shocks and impresses all the growers.

For more information about spray training in SA please contact Tony Burfield, Phone 0401 120 857.

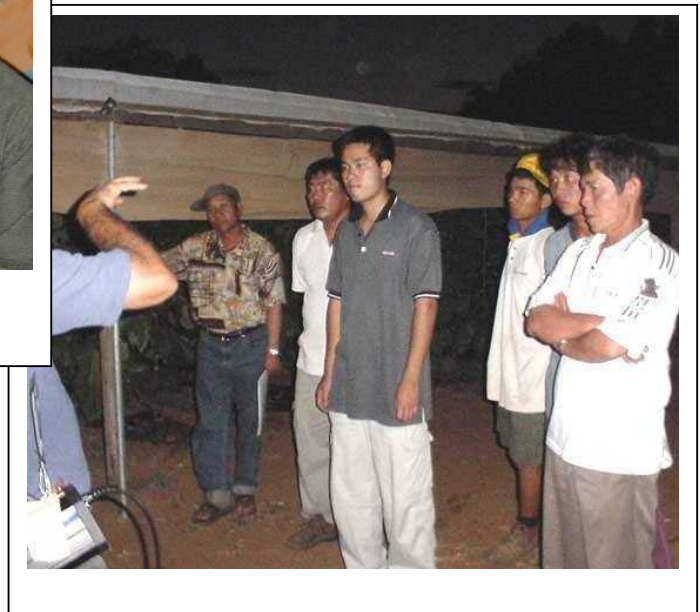
New thrips species threatens Australia

Frankliniella intonsa—a very similar thrips to WFT has recently been picked up by AQIS.

F.intonsa, commonly known as the flower thrips, looks very similar to WFT and also spreads TSWV.

F.intonsa is widespread from Europe to Taiwan and is considered a horticultural pest in the latter country. It has the potential to create problems for horticulture in the temperate regions of Australia. Although it has not yet been found in Australia or New Zealand it has been found in imports by quarantine officials in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth recently.

For more information on this work contact Alison Medhurst on (03) 9210 9246.



Integrated Disease Management Strategy for Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Protected Crops

Control measure	How it works
Promptly destroy or remove finished crops	Helps eliminate virus reservoirs for spread to newly sown crops
Avoid overlapping sowings of susceptible crops in close proximity, and sequential plantings side by side wherever possible	Minimises virus spread from one crop to the next
Propagate from seed	Virus is not seed-borne
Purchase seedlings for transplanting from virus tested nurseries	Avoids infection entering from nurseries
Sow TSWV-resistant varieties when available	Minimises virus spread
Use TSWV bait plants within protected cropping area eg. susceptible petunia or faba bean	Provides advance warning of thrips (feeding damage) and TSWV (necrotic spots)
Use non-host barrier crops between sowings	Reduces numbers of thrips vectors moving from one planting to another
Use thrips-proof netting	Provides barrier against entry of thrips vectors into protected area
Use UV absorbing plastic tunnel house walls	Minimises thrips population build up
Rigorously remove and destroy plants showing TSWV symptoms	Minimises virus sources for spread within crops
Remove all weeds and volunteer vegetatively propagated ornamentals regardless of symptoms	Minimises virus sources for spread to crops
Regular rotational use of different insecticides that are effective against thrips vectors of TSWV	Decreases thrips numbers and consequently virus spread
Biological control using natural thrips predators. (Note:- cannot be used in conjunction with insecticides)	Controls populations of thrips vectors of TSWV
Stop growing susceptible crops for 3 months by planting non-host crops, or leaving bare earth fallow, and rigorously controlling weeds	Provides a complete break from disease which effectively eliminates the virus infection source when all else fails

Components of Integrated Disease Management Strategy devised against TSWV grown within protected cropping situations

Produced by Brenda Coutts and Roger Jones, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

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