

EXTENSION BRIEFS

JUNE & JULY 2004

HENNIE LE ROUX

CRI - Nelspruit

CROP LOAD & FRUIT QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

G.H. BARRY

Flower induction

Citrus trees require a rest period of about six weeks to ensure adequate flower induction takes place. The two mechanisms involved in floral induction in citrus involve low temperature to ensure no root activity, or controlled-drought stress to ensure no root activity. In the absence of low-temperature rest, citrus trees should be exposed to controlled-drought stress for a four to six week period during June and July. Where alternate bearing occurs and orchards are expected to be in an 'on' year in the coming season, flowering intensity can be reduced with the application of 10 ppm gibberellic acid (GA) applied during early June. Please note: do not apply winter GA where a light or normal crop is anticipated.

Degreening

The publication "Common Defects Associated with Degreening of Citrus" by Andy Krajewski and Tim Pittaway is a must for any grower who degreens fruit. It is available from CRI. It puts degreening in perspective, gives the correct manner of treatment as well as a photographic identification of degreening defects.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

A.B. Ware

Red scale

Those growers who have experienced red scale problems during the past season need to consider applying narrow distillation range horticultural mineral oils.

The generally accepted period to apply this treatment is from budswell to budburst (sometime in July and August).

The concentration to be used is dependent on the grade of the oil to be applied (generally 1.0-1.25% medium grade oil).

When spraying oil, care must be taken to apply the oil as a film wet, full cover spray.

This is because oil is believed to suffocate the insect, a job it cannot do if the scale is not covered with oil.

SA fruit journal

DE JOERNAAL VIR DIE VERHOEDER IN SUID-AFRIKA

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POST-HARVEST PATHOLOGY

K.H. LESAR

Update on the use of 2,4-D (Deccomone) on export citrus fruit during the 2004 export season

The good news for the coming 2004 citrus export season is that the 2,4-D issue, that caused havoc last season, has now been resolved. Legislation establishing a harmonised EU MRL of 1.0 ppm for 2,4-D (Deccomone) on citrus, enforceable as of 1 April 2004, was approved by the European Commission on 5 December 2003 and published in the Official Journal of the EU on 16 December 2003. This means that the required 2,4-D MRL has been finally approved.

In July 2003 the grower community was advised of the new recommendations for application of 2,4-D on export citrus that would enable compliance with an MRL of 1.0 ppm. These recommendations were as follows and will apply for all citrus fruit exported to the EU as of 1 April 2004.

Please Note:

- At the previously recommended 500 ppm Deccomone dip treatment the residue level tested out at 0.64 - 1.0 ppm. This is why the recommended concentration has been reduced to 250 ppm, to ensure continued compliance with the 1.0 ppm MRL.
- Recent trials confirm that Deccomone at 250 ppm remains effective.

1. Degreening (Pre-degreening drench + packhouse treatment)

Pre-degreening drench apply: 250 ppm Deccomone =
10 l / 1000 l water

+

After degreening apply: 250 ppm in hot water
fungicide bath =
10 l / 1000 l water

OR

250 ppm in the wax =
250 ml / 25 l wax

2. No Degreening (Packhouse treatment only)

250 ppm Deccomone in hot
water fungicide bath =
10 l / 1000 l water

OR

250 ppm Deccomone in the
wax = 250 ml / 25 l wax

3. Top up of fungicide bath

Replace lost water + full strength Deccomone + 20 m
(Deccomone / Ton fruit (not 40 m(as previously recommended).

fruit journal
DIE JOERNAAL VIR DIE VRUGTEBEDRYF IN SUID-AFRIKA



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