

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (48/11)

Justin Chadwick (9 December 2011)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated"

Alec Bourne

VERIFICATION OF PHYTOSANITARY PUC REGISTRATIONS

Registration of production units (and for some markets - orchards) is a requirement in many protocols and regulations. This allows DAFF to target resources in terms of inspection of orchards prepared for export to different markets. It is essential that this registration is 100% correct – in the past whole consignments have been rejected at inspection because of mismatching PUC's or orchard numbers. DAFF have captured all registration details, and it is now your responsibility to make sure that what they have captured is correct and you have a week to do this. All citrus growers have until the **16th December 2011** to check that their details for registration for Special Markets (EU, Japan, S Korea, USA, China etc) are correct. This is an extremely important process as failure to have the correct details will mean citrus exports to those markets for that PUC will be prohibited. To check your data go to the CGA website (www.cga.co.za) and look under the "current affairs", or go to the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za) and look under the "Plant Health" division. If you need more help, call the CGA office on 031 765 2514. The changes can be forwarded to the following officials below: To: PatrickMag@daff.gov.za; EricMu@daff.gov.za Cc: JulietM@daff.gov.za; ElelwaniTh@daff.gov.za.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT DVD

By now you should have received your CGA-sponsored copy of the Integrated Pest Management for Citrus DVD. If you have not, please send an email to Angela Phillips at angela@citrusacademy.org.za with your farm name, PUC and postal address. The Citrus Academy would very much like to hear what you think of this product. Please send your comments to learnmore@citrusacademy.org.za and please also include suggestions as to what other audio-visual learning material you would like to see us develop in future.

FALSE CODLING MOTH (FCM)

A recent *Cutting Edge* (No 128, December 2011) written by Sean Moore (CRI) gave some very practical advice with respect to FCM control. Growers need to elevate their FCM control measures – if you are not on the *Cutting Edge* distribution list please let me know.

Sean's advice covers three important factors – biological control, orchard sanitation and starting control measures early. **Biological control** – an egg parasitoid (with a long latin name) occurs naturally in citrus orchards and is highly effective in egg parasitism (sometimes up to 100%!). Every effort should be made to avoid the use of disruptive sprays (with thripicides being the main culprit) during the season. Biocontrol with the egg parasitoid can be assisted by augmentation. Using natural enemies must be the number one solution as it reduces dependence on pesticides and reduces costs. **Orchard sanitation** – Weekly orchard sanitation can decrease FCM infestation over the season by **75%**. In hotter regions, and in hotter months orchard sanitation should be done more frequently. If one looks at the effectiveness of orchard sanitation, and the high pest status of FCM, the labour costs incurred by carrying out orchard sanitation is more than justified. Regular orchard sanitation should be initiated no later than early December. CRI's IPM Guidelines give exact details on how the practice should be implemented.

Start Control Measures Early – Do not wait for FCM to be a problem before starting control measures. Early treatment of FCM has a knock on effect on subsequent FCM generations, resulting in control measures shortly before harvest being directed against a lower level of FCM. It has been irrefutably demonstrated that early application of both mating disruption (starting in October) and virus (starting in November/December) is substantially more effective than later initiation of these control measures.

These three pillars are the foundations of good FCM control. All control options (chemical, virus, mating disruption, attract and kill, SIT) will make a small difference if they are not built on this foundation.

CRYPTOGRAN

Growers are reminded the best form of late season false codling moth control is by early season population suppression. Cryptogran has been shown in numerous trial conducted by CRI to be one of the most effective false codling moth controls; particularly when sprayed the week a moth flight peak is determined in November and December. This is to coincide with egg laying and hatching a week to two weeks later. The virus must be ingested to be effective and molasses is a necessary additive to ensure this. Please direct any enquiries to Keith Danckwerts, General Manager, River Bioscience, 083 633 2336 keith@riverbioscience.co.za

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ENSURING A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**