

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (50/16)

(Follow me on Twitter justchad_cga)

Justin Chadwick 30 December 2016



“Test fast, fail fast, adjust fast” Tom Peters

CRI PHYTRISK FOR IMPROVED CITRUS BLACK SPOT MANAGEMENT

It is always exciting when new and useful technologies are introduced into the citrus industry. I have taken the liberty of taking extracts from Mareli Kellerman and Paul Fourie (CRI) article in Cutting Edge No 224.

At the 2016 CRI Research Symposium, we introduced CRI-PhytRisk. In order to allow a wider evaluation of the service and models, we opted to release the website at an early stage of development. Whilst it is part of an ongoing research project, funded by CRI and the Department of Science and Technology, and still requires validation and further improvements, CRI-PhytRisk is now ‘live’ and we invite growers to use it and provide feedback.

What is CRI-PhytRisk?

CRI-PhytRisk (www.cri-phytrisk.co.za) is a website that gives information on the risk of Citrus Black Spot (CBS) infection for each citrus growing region in South Africa on a daily basis, together with the suitability of fungicide spray conditions based on weather conditions as forecast by yr.no.

CRI-PhytRisk aims to answer the following questions: 1. Were weather conditions suitable for CBS infection? 2.

When will fungicide application be most effective for CBS control, and should I alter my spray programme based on the CBS risk? 3. When will weather conditions be suitable for spraying (“Good2spray”)? 4. Can I keep records of the CBS risk of my region throughout the season in case of queries?

The website uses weather data input from yr.no to calculate the CBS risk and good-to-spray conditions for the current day (today), as well as a 6-day forecast. Historical weather and CBS forecast data are stored and available for browsing and download. Various CBS epidemiological models are integrated on the CRI-PhytRisk platform to allow improved decision support to citrus growers in CBS areas to improve fungicide spray timing, choice of fungicide (contact or systemic), as well as to indicate the CBS-risk experienced throughout the season.

1. CBS risk a. Ascospore infection b. Pycnidiospore infection 2. Weather forecast 3. Good2spray daily forecast 4. Breakdown of daily weather and Good2spray forecast in 3-hourly intervals

Who can use CRI-PhytRisk?

Anyone with internet access can view CRI-PhytRisk, including 12 days of weather, CBS and Good2spray forecasts: current day, 5 days previous as well as 6-day future forecast. Users with slow internet speed, or when using smart phones, can access a “Basic Site” to get faster browsing, without seeing interactive maps. Users wanting to view or print historical data will have to be registered to use CRI-PhytRisk. Registered users can also set up email alerts for CBS risk in their region. If you are a member on the CRI website, you will be able to use your email address and CRI-website password to log on to CRI-PhytRisk. If you are not a CGA / CRI member but would like to use CRI-PhytRisk, kindly send an email to phytrisk@cri.co.za and we will verify and register you. Contact CRI on 013-7598000.

How can you help?

We hope you enjoy using the CRI-PhytRisk website! Please use the CRI-PhytRisk website (www.cri-phytrisk.co.za), and email any comments or suggestions to phytrisk@cri.co.za. Please note that CRI-PhytRisk is still in a development and validation phase and improvements and validation of the CBS models are continuously being conducted. The CRI-PhytRisk website and services are made publically available at this stage to encourage use and feedback from stakeholders, but CRI cannot be held liable for any damage resulting from use of CRI-PhytRisk.

What does the future hold?

The next phase of CRI-PhytRisk includes building a smartphone app, and enabling users with weather stations to use their own weather data, as well as the ability to log spray data per orchard. CRI-PhytRisk will be linked with the PhytClean platform in order to keep spray and CBS risk records that may be needed by authorities to determine export eligibility.

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR