

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (5/13)

Justin Chadwick (1 February 2013)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK *It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change" Charles Darwin*

CITRUS BLACK SPOT (CBS) cont.

Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) officials are already hard at work inspecting orchards for CBS sensitive markets. The plan is to have three tranches of inspections, with all orchards inspected prior to harvesting. A website has been developed that will allow growers to log their harvesting start date – this will then inform DAFF with regard to orchard inspections. Details on this procedure will be available from Monday on www.cga.co.za. Once inspected and certified for exports to CBS sensitive markets, that status will remain until the next inspection takes place.

It is very important that growers have their spray records available for inspectors, and that they can explain the applicable spray program. Growers may be asked to provide proof of purchase of the sprays. PPECB inspectors will inspect for CBS symptoms on fruit at intake and in the packline, and in the inspection sample. Should an orchard be blacklisted – no fruit from that orchard will be able to be shipped to a CBS sensitive market.

Research has shown that it is essential to get fruit under cooling as soon as possible after harvest. It is also important to cool the fruit down to the optimum carrying temperature as soon as possible. Growers are encouraged to establish what happens to their fruit ex Packhouse – and to require their service providers to get the fruit into the cold chain, and down to carrying temperature as soon as possible. Guidelines have been developed in the CBS Risk Management System (RMS). This document is being finalized by DAFF and should be available to industry within the next week.

Please note that this does not preclude ambient loading – all fruit (whether ambient loaded or not) needs to be under cooling within the prescribed time as per the CBS RMS. Fruit that has been passed for CBS sensitive markets, but not shipped within 18 days will need to be reinspected. If that fruit is not shipped by day 28 it will no longer be permitted to go to a CBS sensitive market.

FRUIT LOGISTICA

Next week the fresh fruit and vegetable industries converge on Berlin for the annual Fruit Logistica trade fair. Through the Department Trade and Industry funding, South Africa will have their biggest stand at the show ever. It is anticipated that industry representatives from South Africa will be there in their numbers. The CGA has a room from 13h00 to 17h00 each afternoon of the show. Although many bookings have been made – there are still some slots for exporters who would like to book the room – please contact Gloria gloria@cga.co.za or 031 7652514 to determine availability.

PACKHOUSE WORKSHOPS AND CGA ROADSHOWS

CRI Post-harvest packhouse workshops got off to a great start (in Polokwane and at Loskop Dam this week) with an excellent turnout of growers and packhouse managers. These sessions are very informative and provide an opportunity to engage specialist researchers about typical packhouse problems, including: Optimum fungicide applications, logistics, water scarcity and quality, etc. DAFF was present to explain the implementation of phytosanitary requirements for special markets. KZN, Eastern and Western Cape growers are encouraged to attend upcoming workshops in your own province.

Next week the Packhouse Workshops move to KZN and Swaziland with the meeting at Blue Waters in Durban on **12 and 13 February** and Eastern Cape at the Summerstrand Hotel in Port Elizabeth on **14 and 15 February**. Dates, times and venues, as well as the agenda for this meeting and all the other Packhouse Workshops are available on www.cga.co.za. For further information contact HannesBester@cri.co.za.

The CGA Road Shows are also being finalized with dates, times and venues also available at www.cga.co.za. These road shows kick off with **Nkwalini** on Monday 18 Feb at 10h00 at Farmers Club; **Pongola** 19 Feb at 09h00 at Mvutshini Estates; on the same day **Swaziland** at 14h30 at Tambuti Estates; 20 Feb **Nelspruit** at CRI at 14h00 and finishing that week off at **Onderberg**, MSK at 10h00 on Thursday 21 Feb.

Paul Hardman's group visits **Zimbabwe** at 16h00, Monday 18 Feb (Paul Bristow's farm); **Limpopo River**, 19 Feb at 10h00 at Noordgrens Lapa; **Letsitele** at 10h00, The Junction on 20 Feb; **Hoedspruit** on 20 Feb, 15h00 at Die Hengel Klub, ending the week at **Senwes** at 15h00, 21 Feb at Lookout Lodge, Groblersdal.