



07 5442 1611

News

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter for 2011

This year has started out to be a wild one, particularly here in Queensland! At Birdwood Nursery we were incredibly fortunate to escape serious damage in the recent South East Queensland flooding, but our thoughts go out to those who have suffered devastatingly at the hands of Mother Nature across Australia this year.

In this newsletter we will detail how we are getting involved with helping you, our growers, to recover from short and long term impacts of these floods and cyclones. You'll find included information on the following:

- Birdwood crop information and stock availability
- Nature Fruit Company's Grower Information Day – a field day specifically to provide growers with opportunities to tackle the challenges facing them.
- An excerpt and link to our report on Flood Damage to Fruit Tree Orchards
- Biosecurity and HACCP accreditation at Birdwood

For those of you who are able to attend the Grower Information Day, we look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,

Rory Cullinan
General Manager

CROP INFORMATION which products to suit our current climate ...

Following the floods and cyclones across Queensland and beyond, we have had the opportunity to speak with many of you in recent weeks about the implications of the weather on various crop varieties, to discuss rehabilitation options or to consider a complete change of crop.

If we can help further with any information, our staff are happy to provide you with stock information or any advice wherever possible so please don't hesitate to call us on 07 5442 1611



Natures Fruit Company Growers Information Day

MARCH 15, 2011

Birdwood Nursery is a major sponsor for this year's Grower Information Day which is aimed at avocado, custard apple, lychee, mango, citrus, kiwifruit and stonefruit growers around Australia.

The field day, being held on March 15 2011, will be at Natures Fruit Company in the Glasshouse Mountains. The purpose of the day is an opportunity for growers affected by the recent floods and cyclone to meet and collectively confront the challenges facing them.

There will be presentations on the latest research and development techniques, expert speakers, demonstrations and displays including valuable tools to help with farm production.

To find out more about this Grower Information Day including the events being held on the day, please see the information attached to this newsletter.





07 5442 1611

News



Stock availability...

... don't miss out!

March is a busy month with orders being taken now for the following products:

PRODUCT	ORDER MONTH 2011	SUPPLY PERIOD
Avocado	February, March, April	March - November 2012
Citrus	February, March	May - December 2012
Tamarillo	February, March	August - October 2011
Raspberry	March	October 11 - March 2011
Passionfruit	February, March	August - December 2011

Please note: we do grow some product on speculation but if you need assurance that stock is available at certain times it is advisable to place a forward order. Please contact us for more information.



Up & coming product order timelines are as follows:

PRODUCT	ORDER MONTH 2011	SUPPLY PERIOD
Figs	May, June	November 11 - April 2012
Kiwi Fruit	May, June	October - December 2012
Loquats	May	November - December 2012
Mullberries	April	October 2011 - March 2012
Pomegranates	May	May 2012 - December 2012



Flood Damage to fruit tree orchards

To further support our growers during this wet season, our Technical Manager Denis Roe has prepared an exclusive article (attached) which discusses:

- Preparation for flooding – what you can do in advance to minimise damage;
- What can be done during the wet
- Actions that we recommend after the flooding has taken place

We can also support you by suggesting ways of managing your specific trees before, during and after flooding events. Again, please feel free to contact us for advice on the subject and to discuss any tree replacement options with us.



Biosecurity and HACCP accreditation at Birdwood

As part of our continuing commitment to providing world class fruit trees & stewardship of the environment within which we work, Birdwood Nursery recognises the importance of having effective biosecurity programs in place.

Having recently undertaken the Nursery Industry BioSecure HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) program, we can state with confidence that these systems are now part of our daily routine whilst we await official accreditation of the scheme.

These systems complement our ongoing IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program with certain areas within the nursery now 100% bio-controlled.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Denis Roe on

07 5442 1611.



07 5442 1611

Attachments

Grower Information Day



NFC Grower Information Day
March 15, 2011

Healthy trees...
Healthy returns...
Healthy bank balance

A strong and healthy tree is integral to the successful development of quality fruit, which in turn maximizes fruit returns. Effective and efficient spray regimes, use of appropriate chemicals and fertilizers at the right times combined with experienced agronomical advice are all part of robust farm management practice. Our guest presenters have many years of experience and scientifically sound information to share with producers of all tree crops.

Other speakers

Lachlan Douglas, Senior Rural Manager, Rabobank

Rory Cullinan, General Manager, Birdwood Nursery

Liz Dann/Luke Smith presenting on Phytophthora Management

Gerry Clancy, Agrichem

Graeme Thomas, Agronomist, presenting on managing Phytophthora in the field

Jeremy Rennick, Croplands and Eleanor Nolan, Nufarm, presenting on effective spraying: adjuvants and spray nozzles

Brendan Burton, Agronomist, presenting on assistance in the field

Leith Pleavey, Syngenta, presenting on effective use of spray seed

Key Speaker - Geoff Furness

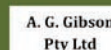
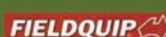
Geoff Furness (MAGSc, Adelaide University) has recently retired from a 42 year career as a research scientist in entomology and spray application technology with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) based at the Loxton Research Center. In his retirement he is continuing working part-time, mainly on new spray equipment innovations in partnership with private businesses.

Geoff has specialized in work on airstream parameters in air assisted spraying funded mainly by the private sector in partnership with SARDI. His work has been a catalyst for the new pesticide label format for fruit trees and grapevines in Australia, widespread adoption of distance based calibration, and the commercialization of new types of multifan sprayers. Benefits for Australian fruit growers include reduced application costs, improved efficacy, reduced pesticide inputs, reduced problems with pesticide residues and reduced off target problems with pesticides.

Complete the registration over page.



Rabobank





07 5442 1611

Attachments

Grower Information Day

March 15, 2011

Event Program

- 8.15 Registration, tea and coffee
- 9.00 Opening welcome – Ros Smerdon, Chairman and Managing Director, NFC.
- 9.05 Lachlan Douglas – Senior Rural Manager, Rabobank
- 9.20 Effective spray calibration – Geoff Furness
- 11.00 Morning tea & visit sponsor displays
- 11.30 Dennis Roe, Technical Manager, Birdwood Nursery
- 11.45 Phytophthora management – Liz Dann / Luke Smith, DEEDI
- 12.30 Chemical tools to aid Phytophthora in the field – Gerry Clancy, Agrichem
- 12.45 Managing Phytophthora in the field – Graeme Thomas, Agronomist
- 1.10 Effective spraying: Adjuvants and spray nozzles – Jeremy Renwick, Croplands and Eleanor Nolan, Nufarm
- 1.30 Assistance in the field – Brendan Burton, Agronomist
- 1.35 Using spray seed effectively, Leith Plevy, Syngenta
- 1.45 Wrap up
- 2.00 Lunch & visit sponsor displays
- 3.00 Close

Grower Information Day

Healthy Trees...
Healthy Returns...
Healthy Bank Balance



Expert speakers, demonstrations and equipment displays. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Where to go?

Natures Fruit Company
242A Coonowrin Road,
Glass House Mountains, QLD
4518

How to get there?

Heading north or south on the Bruce Highway, take Steve Irwin Way towards the Glass House Mountains. Exit onto Reed Street and continue onto Burgess Street. Turn left onto Coonowrin Road and follow until you see the NFC shed on your right.

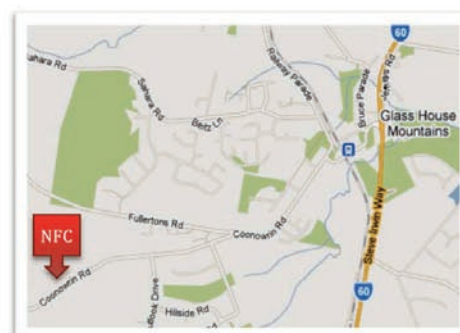
Regular flights are scheduled to Sunshine Coast airport from major cities.

RSVP

Please contact Kerry Linnane on Ph. (07) 5496 9922, Fax (07) 5493 0911 or email admin@naturesfruit.com.au.

Accommodation?

Landsborough Pines Caravan Park	Ph. 07 54941207
Glasshouse Mountains & Beerwah Motel	Ph. 07 5496 9900
Beerwah Motor Lodge	Ph. 07 5494 1911



Attachments

Flood Damage to Fruit Tree Orchards

FLOOD DAMAGE OF FRUIT TREE ORCHARDS

By Denis Roe, Technical Manager

The recent floods in Queensland, NSW and Victoria have had devastating effects on fruit production in these areas. In many cases whole orchards have been lost due to flooding and subsequent water-logging. We at Birdwood nursery would like to express our sympathy with all fruit growers who lost their crops, fruit trees or material possessions during these events and would like to support them by suggesting ways of managing their trees before, during and after flooding events. We also invite you to contact us for advice on the subject and to discuss any tree replacement options with us.

1. Before flooding

Preparation for flooding or water-logging should begin at the orchard soil preparation phase. Pre-plant preparation should include ripping to break up any compacted layers in the soil and to improve drainage. Trees sensitive to water-logging (e.g. avocados) should be planted on ridges at least 0.5m above the lower inter-row orchard floor. The lower orchard floor should drain into drainage canals or drainage lines. Preference should be given to rootstocks which are able to withstand water-logging and/or the subsequent root diseases.

Consideration should be given to the installation of an underground piped drainage system in poorly drained soils, although this may be costly, initially. Mole drains can also be put in before an expected flooding event. Mole drains are unlined channels formed in the clay subsoil with a ripper leg and cylindrical foot or ball dragged through the soil, sometimes with an expander to help compact the channel wall. (<http://www.tgdrains.com.au/page5.htm>). The mole drain may be pulled down the centre of the inter-row in the downhill direction and should be channeled into existing drainage ditches or should be brought gradually to the surface somewhere outside the orchard. Subsequent tractor movement should not compact the mole drain, so the positioning of the drains should take this into account.

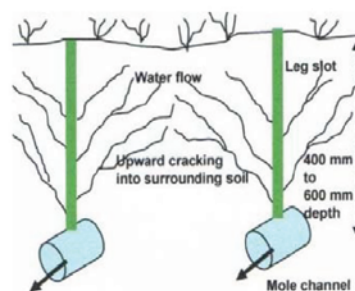


Fig 1: Schematic representation of a mole drain system (<http://www.tgdrains.com.au/page5.htm>)



2. During Wet Events

During water-logging events, there is very little that one can do except to trust that the preparations made during orchard establishment will be able to handle the excess water without damaging tree roots. In the case of extreme flooding events which saturate the soil, trees are not planted on ridges and an underground drainage system is absent, it may be necessary to dig emergency drainage ditches to drain the worst areas in the orchard. This can be done by using a small, tracked excavator which applies low ground pressure to minimise soil compaction. Frequently check dam wall for soundness. Mole drains can be put in during moderate wet events preceding major flooding.

3. After the event

Following a flooding event, some sensitive tree crops (e.g. avocados) will start to show symptoms of water-logging soon after the soil has become saturated. Within 48 hours of the start of water-logging leaf yellowing and fruit drop will start and leaves will start to wilt soon after. Within a few days the whole tree will start to die, sometimes with leaves intact. This will happen in the lower-lying and poorly drained areas. More tolerant crops such as mangos and citrus will take longer to show symptoms.

There are a few things which should be done after flooding for extended periods:

- **Wash silt off leaves:** In the case where whole trees were covered in water, silt should be washed off the leaves with a pressure cleaner to allow sunlight to fall on leaves so that photosynthesis can resume.
- **Alleviate water-logging:** Use excavators or any machinery available to dig drainage ditches where necessary. If one has access to a tracked vehicle and the soil dries sufficiently, growers could pull a mole drain through the soil to get rid of excess water. The application of humates could be of benefit to assist in root system recovery. Phosphorous acid sprays could be sprayed on avocados to limit *Phytophthora* infection and help protect the already stressed root systems from subsequent root rot.
- **Pruning:** If die-back of branches is observed within 1-3 weeks after the flood subsides, prune dead growth back to sound branches. The application of Seasol or some other foliar tonic should be applied to leaves /branches which may help new shoot growth
- **Protect against root-rotting diseases:** Root rot caused by *Phytophthora* spp. will usually follow a water-logging event and protective sprays and/or tree injections should be applied as soon as possible.

A few weeks after the event, careful analysis of the areas on the farm where trees have been affected needs to be carried out, especially for crops sensitive to water-logging such as avocados.



07 5442 1611

Attachments

Decisions need to be made whether to install more permanent drainage systems to take care of future events. Decide also whether dead trees need to be replanted or whether these areas should be avoided for future cropping. Bearing in mind that the next decade is likely to be relatively wet, it may be prudent to leave low-lying areas, where trees have drowned, as drainage areas and left unplanted with trees. Alternatively, consider replanting these areas with a more water-logging-tolerant crop such as mangoes or citrus, especially limes.

Bear in mind that many other growers would have gone through similar trauma and will need to place orders with their nursery tree suppliers. Therefore, speedy re-ordering of replacement trees will put one at an advantage by either obtaining trees already in stock or getting into the queue early for new season trees.

For further information on flood affected products or for help with alternative stock information please don't hesitate to call us on 07 5442 1611.