



Apple & Pear World News

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Australia

Australia Chile FTA sinks the level playing field

Weekly Times, Victoria, 19 November 2008, p85

Summerfruit Australia president Ian McAlister said that the Australia Chile free trade agreement was fast tracked and concluded in 11 months when they normally take up to four years. Fruit growers are "quite willing to engage with countries where there is a possibility of two-way trade. With Chile there is no possibility of that", he said.

Stonefruit Export Committee and Horticulture Australia advisor Dom Cutri said that the arrival of Chile produce on Australian shores would be an "absolute disaster". He said that with labour costs at about \$20 per day in Chile, he expects supermarkets to drive down prices by threatening to import produce from Chile. A spokesman for Trade Minister Simon Crean said that the FTA was unlikely to impact greatly on horticultural trade, partly because Chile had other export markets.

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Milk rather than morning juice fills the void, in study

Herald Sun, Melbourne, 19 November 2008, p28

Researchers at the University of Western Australia provided 34 people with fruit juice one day and milk on another and then a platter of sandwiches four hours later. Those who drank milk ate about 10 per cent less at the lunchtime meal. Lead researcher Dr Emma Dove of the School of Medicine and Pharmacology said that the results go against what people understand about dairy produce encouraging weight gain and leave you less hungry at lunch time, compared to a morning juice drink.

Reverse osmosis equipment saves the day for Wandong nurseryman

Weekly Times, Victoria, 19 November 2008, p12

A reverse osmosis desalination plant installed by Wandong nurseryman 'Ziggy' Skrodzki has saved his central Victorian business and enabled him to expand when the town remains on stage four water restrictions. The Polish born horticulturalist produces 20,000 plants per week and supplies to 100 outlets in central, northern and NE Victoria. After previously relying on town water and dam water he accessed bore water three years ago that is now pumped into an Australian made Aviva pure reverse osmosis plant. The manufacturers claim that the plant removes 99 per cent of contaminants and can process salty water down to about a third the salinity of rain water. The plant cost \$25,000 to install and has minimal maintenance requirements.

Australia Chile FTA Grower prompts comment by HAL

www.freshplaza.com , source: fruitnet.com, 18 November 2008

Legislation implementing the Australia-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) passed through the Australian parliament last week, in a move that elicited divided opinions from Australian horticulturists. The FTA will see all tariffs eliminated by 2015.

Wayne Prowse of Horticulture Australia Ltd said industry opinion was divided on the future impacts of the FTA, but there was agreement that the needs of growers and exporters was not taken into account. "Our needs were almost a non-event, they haven't really been considered – that's the view of the industry," he told Fruitnet. "We're disappointed."

Mr Prowse said while there was concern Chile could flood the Australian market with low-priced produce based on their cheaper labour costs and similar season, the shipping realities meant there probably wasn't much risk. "There's certainly concern they could put a lot more fruit into our market in our domestic season, but there's divided opinion on whether that could happen," he said.

"Given the distance, the shipping from Chile to Australia is not that easy. The tariffs from Chile haven't been significant in the past anyway, and there's still a lot of phytosanitary access they haven't achieved." He added that Chile would probably push for more market access with the implementation of the FTA, and said the government already had access submissions.

"We're disappointed the government has chosen to go this way when Chile is not a major trading partner and there are other markets to look at," he said. "Australia and Chile should be working together to service the Northern Hemisphere markets."

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Cherry crop picks up on last year

West Australian, 18 November 2008, p17

A dismal cherry season in Western Australia last year meant that consumers were paying up to \$36/kg for the cherry crop of about 100 tonnes. An average season this year should bring the price down to \$12 to \$15/kg for better quality fruit, said Cherry Growers Association president Max Arif. Picking of early varieties of cherries in the South West began last week, he said.

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Irrigation allocations creep up in GV

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 18 November 2008, p6

Recent rains in the Goulburn and Murray irrigation systems has not translated into inflows in storages due to the very dry state of the catchments, said Goulburn Murray Water's m/d David Stewart. He said that the biggest advantage was to reduce demand and add to the savings achieved in system operations. Goulburn irrigators' allocation increased by four per cent to 18 per cent and Murray irrigators increased two per cent to 21 per cent. Allocations could increase by 10 per cent and seven per cent respectively by 15 February.

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VFF horticulture group forms in the Goulburn Valley

Country News, Goulburn Valley, www.countrynews.com.au, 18 November 2008, p16

The Victorian Farmers Federation has formed a horticulture branch in Shepparton to be known as the Goulburn Valley Fruit Growers. Chairman Gary Goodwill said that the new entity has evolved from the Tatura Karramous VFF group, whose concerns were more about dryland farming. The GVFG will have representation directly to the VFF and will happily welcome anyone involved in horticulture. The north-south pipeline, drought and emissions trading were three concerns discussed at their most recent meeting.

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Cherry harvest underway in Victoria

Country News, Goulburn Valley, www.countrynews.com.au, 18 November 2008, p16

The cherry harvest is underway at Turnbull's orchards in Ardmona and will finish just before Christmas. Alex Turnbull said that a lower than normal yield is expected possibly due to a lack of chill hours and pollination. They have 12 varieties of cherries on 35ha. The lack of rain has also helped fruit quality, what Alex describes as a 'catch 22 situation for cherry orchardists as rain will split the fruit. Australians consumed 11,000 tonnes of cherries last year and Victorian Cherry Association president Tony Allen expects a good season overall.

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Melbourne's new water supplies driven by lack of planning and greed

Age, Business News, 17 November 2008, p6

The Victorian Government has announced that it will be increasing the price of Melbourne water by 260 per cent to offset project costs to provide a secure water supply in the future. Columnist Kenneth Davidson criticises the lack of thoughtful planning and greedy entrepreneurs as driving the project concepts that are now in progress.

He said that the Foodbowl Modernisation project will increase costs to irrigators and the north south pipeline will provide water at greater costs than desalinated water. On the desalination plant he said that the \$3.1bn plant will supply water at six times the cost of existing dam water, contribute to global warming, coastal pollution and Australia's foreign debt.

He said that politicians are being 'led by the nose by corporate rent seekers' who can see fortunes made out of trading water. He said that the Melbourne supply Thomson Dam was never fully completed in the 1970's and for a cost of under \$500m could be completed and supply water back to Murray Goulburn irrigators. Melbourne Water could be supplied from Tasmania at a fraction of the cost of desalinated water, he said.

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Healthy appetite assured for school kids

Age, General News, 17 November 2008, p4

Victorian Education Minister Bronwyn Pike said that from next year chocolates and lollies will be banned from Victorian Government school canteens and vending machines. Students will have healthy alternatives such as fruit, salads and fresh wraps that will give them the energy and stamina they need for the day, said Ms Pike. About 100 schools will be audited in 2009 to ensure that they comply with the confectionary ban. An audit in 2007 found that 98 per cent of schools were compliant.

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Senate inquiry to investigate water policy

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 17 November 2008, p6

Opposition political parties are threatening to halt the construction of the north-south pipeline as a Victorian upper house inquiry is set to investigate the benefits and costs of the pipeline, the desalination plant and the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure. Victorian Premier John Brumby defended the state's water strategy and questioned the need for a Senate inquiry.

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Food miles protectionist and hence detrimental to most of mankind

Weekend Australian, 15 November 2008, p32

Food transport accounts for only 1.8 per cent of British emissions and 1.0 per cent in the US, yet eating local produce was supposed to help the planet. Growing tomatoes in heated greenhouses in the UK emits 2.4 tonnes of CO₂ for every tonne of tomatoes grown, compared to 0.6 t in Spain. A study found that cold storage of British apples produced more CO₂ than shipping New Zealand apples by sea to London. Researchers warn that the food miles campaign is bolstering protectionist interests 'that are fundamentally detrimental to most of mankind'.

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Government buy back to pick up 250,000ML of supplementary entitlement

Age, General News, 15 November 2008, p4

Tandou Farms in the Darling River Basin, several hundred kms north of Mildura, will relinquish 250,000ML of 'supplementary' water entitlement in a major deal with the NSW Government at a cost of \$34m. Supplementary entitlements are on top of normal entitlements. No water will currently be available for the environment, as extraction occurs when a flood occurs. The Australian Conservation Foundation describes the sale as a good deal for the taxpayer and the environment. The Federal Government is contributing \$5m to the deal, which exceeds the historic purchase in September of Toorale Station further to the north-east. Tandou Farms will continue to farm.

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Banana entry just the beginning

www.freshplaza.com, source: farmonline.com.au, 14 November 2008

Business analyst firm IbisWorld is forecasting worse things to come for Australian agriculture, following yesterday's conditional recommendation from Biosecurity Australia that Filipino bananas be allowed into the country. According to IbisWorld, this decision points to a new trend towards higher imports of fruit and vegetables, with IbisWorld anticipating banana imports will hold 25pc of the market within five years.

Robert Bryant of IbisWorld said that consumers will enjoy a 35pc discount on imported bananas, but at potentially significant cost to local livelihoods. "We consume around 13.4kg of bananas per person each year," Mr Bryant said. "If the farmers' appeal against Biosecurity Australia's decision, set down for December 12, is unsuccessful, we'll see per capita consumption rise 14pc to 15.3kg. "But around a quarter (400 people) of banana industry jobs may be lost."

Biosecurity Australia, he points out, is also considering allowing imported apples from China and the US, citrus fruits from the US and South Africa, stone fruit from the US, grapes from China and mandarins from Japan and Korea.

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North-south pipeline a major project as protestors have their say

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 14 November 2008, p4

5,500 pipes will span the 70km from the Goulburn River near Yea to Melbourne's Sugarloaf reservoir near Yarra Glen when the north-south pipeline is completed. About 20 pieces of about 2m diameter pipe, each weighing 11 tonnes, are being laid each day. Joins require welding on both the inside and the outside to provide the most leak proof seal. About 400 people will be employed on the project that is on schedule to be completed in 2010. Eight Plug the Pipe protestors were today removed from the construction site by police and will be charged with trespassing under the Water Act. [Return to Front Page](#)

Combating a biosecurity threat will stretch resources

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 13 November 2008, p3

An auditor general's report found that Victorian authorities would struggle to cope with a major biosecurity threat. Fruit growers Victoria g/m John Wilson said that if fire blight broke out from imported NZ apples, it would be almost impossible to control. Outbreaks of Queensland fruit fly are an example, where DPI is under resourced. He said that this is not a criticism of DPI, but rather a recognition of the enormous resources required to manage the outbreaks. [Return to Front Page](#)

Summer fruit crop positive signs in WA

West Australian, 13 November 2008, p11

Good supplies of summer fruit are expected from WA growers with the crop forecast to be up 25 per cent on a light crop last year. Good quality new season fruit is \$10 to \$12 per kg wholesale for nectarines and peaches respectively said WA Independent Grocers Association president John Cummings. He said with increased supplies by December he would expect the shop prices to drop to between \$5 and \$6 per kg. He said that its great news for consumers and also for farmers who are expecting a bumper crop. [Return to Front Page](#)

Plug the Pipe group accuses Government of old figures

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 12 November 2008, p4

Plug the Pipe protest group spokesman Ken Pattison told a Senate inquiry into the future of the Murray Darling Basin that losses of 900GL per annum that justified the Foodbowl Modernisation project in the Goulburn Valley were old figures. He said that research by the group showed that just 380GL were lost last year and 545GL in 2006.

Foodbowl convenor John Corboy said that the group's argument is on the basis that 'we will be in perpetual drought'. The savings 'are achievable under normal circumstances'. He asked who would otherwise fund the \$2bn of infrastructure improvements. 75GL will go to Melbourne in the first year (2010), then they receive one third of the savings. "So if it's a third of nothing, it's a third of nothing". [Return to Front Page](#)

Drought bites as water set to flow south

WIN (TV) News, Albury, 12 November 2008, p32

A new Government report has revealed that irrigators are falling further into debt due to the ongoing drought. Fruit Growers Victoria g/m John Wilson said that they are in talks with the Government for further assistance. Foodbowl Steering Committee member Dudley Bryant, has admitted that as a result of the north-south pipeline, there will be less water in the system, refuting Government claims to the contrary. [Return to Front Page](#)

New Zealand

US backs NZ in battle for access to Australian apple market

The Orchardist, November 2008, pp32-34

Comments sent to Biosecurity Australia on its IRA regarding the US request for entry of apples into Australia, agree with New Zealand's dispute claims that Australia's existing IRA requirements are 'problematic and scientifically insufficient'.

The USDA claims that the establishment and spread of fire blight is over-exaggerated by Australia, the figures suggesting that fire blight would occur in 70 to 100 per cent of US apple orchards every year. This greatly exaggerates the spread of fire blight in the US and especially so within the Pacific North West (PNW) States. The market access request is for apples from only the three PNW States, noting that high transportation costs, abundant apple production and restricted movement due to certain pests means that few, if any, Eastern States apples are shipped to the PNW.

The USDA also believes that there is a lack of scientific evidence to support measures on European canker. The USDA also challenged certain assertions by BA on cultivation and processing factors for PNW apples. BA is also accused of extending the pest list well beyond the recognised list of pests and that several in the pest list were not known to occur in the three States.

The article concludes that 'going by Australia's comments at the WTO disputes panel meeting in September, it is unlikely to take kindly to some of these comments.' Tolerance of risk is an issue that Australia is emphatic about, that 'Members' do not have to accept the same level of risk or a certain minimum risk, according to the SPS Agreement. What counts is what risk Australia is prepared to accept, not what NZ or another 'Member' is prepared to tolerate, according to the Australians. [Return to Front Page](#)

UK / Europe

New Zealand Jazz™ welcome in the UK

www.freshplaza.com, source: *hortweek.com*, 14 November 2008

Sale of New Zealand Jazz well into the home apple season is no cause for growers to be alarmed, according to English Apple & Pears chief executive Adrian Barlow. He said the reason for the fruit's presence on supermarket shelves is simply that sufficient supplies are not yet being grown in the UK and Europe to satisfy demand.

"Jazz is a bit like Pink Lady in being a club apple that's wanted by supermarkets for 12 months of the year," he explained. "At present there's insufficient production here and in Europe to supply the UK market throughout our season.

"English Jazz won't be available until the end of November and so there's no need for anyone to be upset by the presence of New Zealand Jazz on supermarket shelves. It's important to ensure that local produce is sold (at the best time) to provide the best-possible returns."

Worldwide Fruit marketing manager Steve Maxwell said the first Southern France Jazz crop recently became available. He expects the English crop to be 10 to 15 per cent above the predicted 1,200 tonnes.

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EU fruit scheme to promote pears for kids

www.freshplaza.com , source: *hortweek.com*, 14 November 2008

Mr Fruitness, a Europe-wide scheme to encourage children to eat healthily, is focusing on pears. "As the cold season draws in, peaches and nectarines are making way for pears to spend the next few months spearheading the awareness campaign," said a representative for the three-year Fruitness, Enjoy It! campaign.

"Pears are rich in simple sugars, potassium and vitamin C, are an excellent source of fibre and have a high water content - essential for balancing the body's functions. They are a typical autumn-winter fruit best eaten fresh, though they lend themselves equally well to simple sweet and savoury recipes."

The campaign targets kids in the UK, Poland, Austria, Sweden and Germany, and is funded by the European Commission and the Agricultural Payment Agency.

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Polyphenol found in old English apples to help us to live longer

www.freshplaza.com , source: *timesofindia.indiatimes.com*, 17 Nov 2008

Scientists have found that apples contain a powerful chemical which can help us live longer. The compound, an epicatechin polyphenol, is found in bitter English apples that were originally grown hundreds of years ago but are now no longer eaten. Trials have revealed that epicatechin can help maintain a healthy circulation by relaxing arteries and increasing blood flow.

The research was conducted independently by the Institute of Food Research in Norwich. It shows it can dramatically reduce arterial stiffness by 21 per cent, which in turn leads to lower blood pressure and a reduced risk of heart disease and stroke, reports the Daily Express.

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South Tyrol produces a record apple crop

www.freshplaza.com , 13 November 2008

During 2008, a record crop of apples was harvested in South Tyrol in Etschtal. With a yield of more than 53 tons per hectare it is estimated that the harvest this year, including the last Pink Lady's which are still to be picked, will be a total of 575,000 to 585,000 tons. Last harvest season this was 556,000 tons. In Vinschau, the harvest is also bigger and is estimated to be 310,000 tons. Therefore a total of 900,000 tons is to be marketed by VOG.

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Africa

New red blush pear from South Africa

www.freshplaza.com , 14 November 2008

In South Africa at the LNR Infruitec-Nietvoorbij Institute a new red blush pear has been developed in order to compete on the international fruit market. The variety has been registered under the typical name "Cheeky" which means bold or forward. The variety, which is regarded to be very promising, will possibly be made available to growers next spring.

Because red blush pears obtain good prices on European markets, it is important for South Africa to address this market segment, as it is one of the few countries producing red pears. The storage period in cooling is at least three months, which offers possibilities for the European market with only Conference for sale.

Cheeky will be marketed and commercialised by Culdevco in South Africa and abroad. For more information contact leon@culdevco.co.za

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North America

US fresh apple inventories up but processing down

www.freshplaza.com , source: usapple.org, 14 November 2008

Holdings for fresh apples in the U.S. are up from a year ago, while holdings of processing apples are down for the same period, according to a new storage survey released today by the U.S. Apple Association (USApple), the national trade association for the apple industry.

In a 1 November survey of U.S. apple storage facilities, USApple found that total apple holdings in storage was 152.8 million bushels, up four percent from the same date a year ago and nearly equal to the five-year average. U.S. fresh-market apple holdings of 113.6 million bushels reflected a 13 percent increase over the 100.8 million bushels reported in November 2007 and nine percent more than the five-year average of 104.7 million bushels. Total processing apple holdings were 39 million bushels, down 16 percent from 2007 and 20 percent for the five-year average, according to the survey. See

<http://www.usapple.org/media/publications/index.cfm#marketnews>

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Washington apple crop takes on new dimension

www.freshplaza.com , source: bestapples.com, 12 November 2008

The estimated Washington apple crop has grown by almost 10 pc to a record 108.9 million boxes (2,075 million tonnes) according to the latest storage report released on November 6, 2008. Red Delicious continues to account for the largest percentage of the crop, at 32.8 million boxes decreased slightly from last season. The biggest gainers are Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji and Gala, increasing by 32 pc, 21 pc, 19 pc and 6 pc respectively from the 07-08 season.

While Golden Delicious showed the largest percentage increase, volume has rebounded from a lower than average harvest in the 07-08 season and is line with the five year average.

The Washington organic apple crop has also increased dramatically, at an estimated 7.3 million boxes doubling the 2007 crop. Much of this is due to transitional orchards, which are now eligible to be certified as organic for the 08-09 season. For more information on the Washington apple industry and Washington Apple Commission, please visit www.bestapples.com.

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California DFA to trap Light Brown Apple Moth outbreak

www.freshplaza.com, source: *timesheraldonline.com*, 12 November 2008

Northern Solano County has a new agricultural pest to deal with, following the discovery of a Light Brown Apple Moth in Fairfield. Originally from Australia, 24 Light Brown Apple Moths have been identified in Solano County in the Mare Island, Vallejo and Benicia areas.

The invasive pest was most recently found near Pau Court in Fairfield and agents from the California Department of Food and Agriculture plan to place traps in a 1.5 mile radius in the next couple days to identify the magnitude of the infestation. The moth poses a threat to 250 plant species, including many residential plants and commercial crops in Solano County. [Return to Front Page](#)

New website for Michigan apples

www.freshplaza.com, source: *ThePacker.com*, 12 November 2008

The Michigan Apple Committee, DeWitt, is staying ahead of the curve when it comes to technology. Its newly designed [interactive Web site](#) has many new features, including a blog for viewers to interact with experts, said Holly Whetstone, marketing and communications manager. The blog features commentary by Laura Dietrich, the state apple queen, Judy MacNeill, nutrition spokesperson and Michigan Apple Committee staff. The Web site address is www.michiganapples.com. [Return to Front Page](#)

Industry concern at record US apple crop

www.freshplaza.com, source: *wenatcheeworld.com*, 12 November 2008

Washington will probably produce a record apple crop this year, but the size of the harvest and international financial turmoil are likely to push prices down, experts say. So far the state's apple industry is on target with exports, but that could change because of the world credit crisis, says Desmond O'Rourke, a retired Washington State University agricultural economist and president of Belrose Inc., a private consulting firm.

"The industry has 13 percent more apples to sell between now and next September. And with a weak economy right now, that will put a lot of downward pressure on prices they (companies) haven't felt for three years now," O'Rourke said.

Glady Bellamy, president of Columbia Marketing International, a major Wenatchee apple shipper, said that there's a higher percentage of medium and small apples in this year's crop. Traditionally, the export market is the "relief valve" for small fruit, but the credit problem complicates that, he said. "Things are dicey in the export market. There's a lot of volatility in exchange rates. There are nervous customers worldwide," Bellamy said. "There are places we're more cautious about selling to because we're concerned about getting our money." [Return to Front Page](#)

Tightened rules proposed for soil fumigant use

Good Fruit Grower, www.goodfruit.com, October 2008, p8

The US Environmental Protection Agency is proposing stringent rules for the use of soil fumigants that will prevent their effective application for tree crops, according to industry sources. Use of methyl bromide will be halted on sites where alternatives are available. The most commonly used fumigant in orchards, Telone C-17, a combination of Telone and chloropicrin, is applied 40cm into the ground.

The use of chloropicrin will require a buffer zone of 1,025 feet for a 40-acre fumigated orchard, and air in the buffer zone must be sampled every hour both during application and for 48 hours afterwards. As well as the buffer zone, an education program for use and appropriate signs must be implemented up to a year ahead.

Washington State University (WSU) Extension educator, Tim Smith, said that the tree fruit industry is only a small player and only about 8,000 acres is fumigated each year in Washington, about 2.6 pc of total fruit acreage. He said that he has never worked with anything as rewarding as soil fumigation to control replant disease. Unfumigated orchards yield between 60-80% of normal and are not profitable. "These are hit you over the head results".

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Farm bill supports engineering solutions

Good Fruit Grower, www.goodfruit.com, October 2008, p10-11

Dr Clark Seavert, Director at Oregon State University, will chair a group of advisers and industry providers to evaluate the costs and benefits of new technologies that is prompted by the opportunity for Farm Bill support for speciality crops to investigate engineering solutions to fruit and vegetable crop production.

WSU Extension educator Karen Lewis, a member of the group, said that the formation of the group is timely. Possible labour shortages and increased costs are two of the most urgent problems. Engineering solutions extend to sprayer technology, sensors, information technology and decision support systems. Asked if the technology would focus on modern planting systems that would require expensive conversion of many current plantings, she said the technology would apply to traditional 3D plantings as well as modern fruiting-wall systems.

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Bee stress contributes to colony collapse disorder

Good Fruit Grower, www.goodfruit.com, October 2008, p12-13

A colony collapse disorder of bees in the Pacific Northwest is being investigated by Washington State University (WSU) to look at causes and possible treatments.

Rick Zack, chair of WSU's entomology department, said that bee stress may be part of the problem. Trucking from state to state may be one form of stress that needs to be alleviated. WSU is also looking at developing strains of bees that are genetically better able to handle stress.

Eric Olson of Yakima, Washington, is one of the country's largest beekeepers with around 14,000 hives. Last winter, he lost 35 pc of his bees, which cost him \$1.2m in lost pollination fees and replacement costs. He said that beekeepers can't afford repeated losses of this magnitude. He said that he treated his bees only once for tracheal mites, instead of three applications of menthol at seven-day intervals. He said the single treatment appeared less stressful to the bees

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Bee nutrition another possible colony collapse disorder cause

Good Fruit Grower, www.goodfruit.com, October 2008, p14-15

Dr Gordon Wardell, president of SAFE Research and Development LLC, is working with the USDA bee research centre in Tucson, Arizona and with WSU. He said that colony collapse disorder (CCD) may be attributed to nutrition. "We're asking our bees to live on monocultural pollens month after month".

In addition, there is not the diversity of weed growth with the extensive use of Round-up (glyphosate). Higher temperatures due to global climate change also result in lower quantity and quality of protein in the pollen of plants. Worker bees die early because of poor nutrition, and young bees take their place as foragers, but cannot cope physiologically.

Beekeeper Eric Olson has contributed 144 bee colonies to the research centre at WSU to investigate CCD, having lost 80 pc of the bees that spent the summer in western Washington and the remaining 20 pc were not well!

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Sterile codling moth release, 14 years and \$58m later

Good Fruit Grower, www.goodfruit.com, October 2008, p17-18

The groundbreaking Sterile Insect Release (SIR) program in British Columbia is in its fourteenth year and costs have surpassed \$58m. SIR has released more than two billion sterile male codling moths in that time in order to control codling moth infestations in apples and pears. The program has achieved mixed results and a mixed reaction from growers.

SIR reports that at the end of 2007, 93 pc of the 9,724 acres in the control area had less than 0.5 pc damage at harvest, compared to 86 pc in 2001. However some district "hot spots" have extended their 'costly maintenance phase' for another year at a cost of \$134 per acre to growers.

Sam DiMaria has 54 acres of apples and 14 acres of pears, but has serious codling moth problems in a couple of blocks. He is not happy to pay an SIR levy when he also has to apply three or four chemical applications and still has a large amount of damaged fruit.

Farlie Paynter has 5 acres of apples and 5 acres of cherries. He uses pheromone mating disruption to successfully control codling moth and does not favour the SIR program, nor the SIR's right to enter properties unannounced to inspect trees and release moths.

SIR has 17 full-time staff, five consultants and about 65 seasonal employees, and also monitors fruit trees in urban areas.

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Los Angeles Market Report

LA wholesale on 18 November 2008 provided by: Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA.

Source	Variety	Pack	US \$ Min	US\$ Max	AU \$ Min	AU \$ Max
Washington	Red Del	18 kg	14.50	24.00		
Washington	Golden Del	18 kg	18.00	29.00		
Washington	Fuji	18 kg	16.00	30.00		
Washington	G Smith	18 kg	14.00	29.00		
Washington	Gala	18 kg	18.00	41.00		
Oregon	Anjou	20 kg	22.00	27.00		
Washington	Anjou	20 kg	22.00	29.00		

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Information About APWN and Disclaimer

This bulletin is prepared weekly to bring you up to date with the latest information about apples and pears with some reference to other commodities. Information is sourced from weekly and monthly publications and the electronic media and is used in the next issue of the bulletin after it is received. All sources are referenced.

The Bulletin is compiled and edited by Apple & Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) from information researched by APAL staff and consultants, in particular Ross Wall. APAL also gratefully acknowledges assistance provided by the Agribusiness Initiative of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

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