



# Apple & Pear World News

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## Australia

### Pear promotions set to go

*Australian Fruitgrower*, [www.apal.org.au](http://www.apal.org.au), May 2009, p6

The pear promotions campaign in 2009 will set consumers on a course to 'Rediscover the Pear' with magazine promotions, 1.5m copies of an eight page booklet titled 'Rediscover the Pear', media targeting, in-store promotions and a website to access for promotional material. The 'Rediscover the pear' campaign explains to consumers how to select, store and serve their pears to achieve best results.

The campaign follows recommendations from consumer research that identified that even moderate to heavy pear buyers don't know the basics of pear care and are excited to be told. See [www.rediscoverthepear.com.au](http://www.rediscoverthepear.com.au) or contact [michelle.toft@horticulture.com.au](mailto:michelle.toft@horticulture.com.au) for more information.

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### Planning Minister delivers harsh blow to farming community

*Weekly Times*, 10 June 2009, p9

Mildura Rural City Council Mayor Glenn Milne said that Victoria's planning minister Justin Madden has blocked farmers' (vineyards and citrus) rights to subdivide their land by amending the Mildura Planning Scheme to raise the minimum subdivision area from 10ha to 40ha. Local community farmers face huge losses and house block owners now cannot build.

The average block size is 10 to 15ha and VFF Mildura branch president Frank Pedulla said that Mr Madden had killed family farming in the region with young people now unable to build near their parent's farm. Council expects its rate revenue to drop by \$1.25m per year and property values are expected to drop to less than 30 per cent of the current value.

### Government to improve AQIS system efficiencies to ease cost burden for exporters

*Weekly Times*, 10 June 2009, p13

The move to full cost recovery for AQIS inspection fees for export produce was expected to add \$40m to exporter's costs, due to the Federal Government removing federal subsidies that cover about 40 per cent of inspection fees. However the Government has announced that it will spend \$40m on quarantine reform to cushion higher fees. The aim is to reduce the cost of inspection fees by making inspection processes more efficient. Easier lodgement of electronic paperwork is an example of change. Industry anticipates that the reform process will deliver net benefits.

## **Small block exit grants to close on 30 June**

*Country News*, [www.countrynews.com.au](http://www.countrynews.com.au), 9 June 2009, p8

Small block exit grants for farmers will end on 30 June. The grants offer up to \$150,000 to eligible irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin who own up to 40ha of farmland and have at least 10ML of tradeable water entitlements. The irrigators must sell their water entitlements to the Federal Government through their basin water buyback program. Contact Centrelink on 1800 050 015 for more information.

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## **Ausveg welcomes review of new Horticulture Award**

*Ausveg, Media Release*, 9 June 2009

Ausveg ceo Richard Mulcahy said that restaurants and pharmacies have been able to negotiate with the government for concessions to the proposed awards modernisation and Workplace Relations Minister Julia Gillard has agreed to review the process for other industries.

He said that the Horticulture Australia Council estimates that wage costs will increase by as much as 30 per cent under the new arrangements to commence on 1 January 2010. He said that from this date Modern Awards (in this case the Horticulture Industry Award 2010) will replace other awards, with the exception of those industrial instruments (eg enterprise agreements) confined to a single business. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Record low deliveries to Goulburn and Murray systems in 2008/09**

*Shepparton News*, 8 June 2009, p7

Goulburn Murray Water m/d David Stewart said that 2008/09 irrigation deliveries are barely one third of the average for the past 15 years of 1.8 million ML (including 12 years of drought). Delivery so far this season is 578,000ML. The low delivery can also be attributed to some customers choosing to carryover 2008-09 allocations to 2009-10.

He said that the low seasonal allocations of just over 30 per cent were the second lowest ever for the Goulburn system and the lowest ever for the Murray system. He said that channel and delivery management measures to save water during the irrigation season meant that up to 30 per cent of the 6,300km channel system remained closed at any one time. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Money flows as Commonwealth and Victoria agree on water buybacks**

*Shepparton News*, 5 June 2009, p3

Victorian Premier John Brumby describes agreement with the Commonwealth on strategic purchase of water from Northern Victorian irrigators as a landmark agreement. 300GL will be purchased over and above the four per cent water trading cap, which the State has agreed to phase out from 2011 to 2014. The purchases will be linked to the \$2bn Northern Victorian Irrigation Modernisation Project, with buybacks targeted at less productive areas while irrigation infrastructure is modernised.

The Commonwealth has committed an additional \$300m to fund on-farm irrigation upgrades and has reaffirmed its commitment to the second \$1bn for stage two of the modernisation works. Over five years the Commonwealth expects to acquire 460GL including water traded within the cap. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Northern Victoria benefits to flow with water deal**

*Shepparton News, 5 June 2009, p3*

Editorial comment commends Victorian Premier John Brumby for his faith in the region and his resistance to relentless assaults by media, politicians and personal pressure to lift the four per cent trading cap. Now the region will have an orderly buyback of water from unproductive parts of the system, enabling world's best practice for the remaining areas.

What started as a \$1bn project has turned into a \$3.3bn project, equivalent to \$1m per day for every working day for 13 years and when the cap disappears in 2014 the region should be in an excellent position to buy back water for high value agriculture.

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## **Climate change to hit Australia hard**

*Canberra Times, 5 June 2009, p8*

The Centre for Global Development in Washington DC, said that Australia is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change, with Australia's farms and food crops forecast to incur a national productivity drop of up to 27 per cent. Climate change means higher temperatures, more floods and tropical storms, greater wind speeds and increased bushfire risk, according to scientists.

Queensland's Cyclone Larry, Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires, drought in the Murray Darling basin and recent floods in Queensland have all impacted on farm production. Eight years of drought has cut Australia's rice harvest by 98 per cent, an industry that otherwise supports 8,000 people and the economy of 60 towns in rural NSW. Australian rice exports fed 40m people and growers use 50 per cent less water to grow one kilogram of rice than the world average.

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## **44% of primary producers expect worsening agricultural economy**

*Shepparton News, Victoria, 5 June 2009, p5*

Rabobank Australia surveys an average of 1,200 farmers across the nation on a quarterly basis. Forty four per cent of Victorian primary producers expect the agricultural economy to worsen. Twenty per cent expect the economy to improve, up on 13 per cent in the previous survey.

Katunga dairy farmer Ian Carkeek is gearing up to exit the industry. He said that low commodity and milk prices, the drought, changes in water allocations and the high amount of bought in feed adds up to a loss for the year. It doesn't make sense to stay in the business, he said.

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## **Horticulture Award 2010 under fire**

*Gympie Times, QLD, 4 June 2009, p11*

Growcom's industrial relations advisor Donna Mogg describes the Modern Horticulture Award 2010, due to start on 1 January 2010 as the single most important issue to hit horticulture in a decade. Growcom has met with advisors to the deputy prime minister in recent weeks and presented "what we think are some reasonable solutions." This includes a two year moratorium on the award in the hardest hit states 'of which Queensland will be top of the list', according to Ms Mogg. "It's about trying to cushion the impact around the new award," she said.

Meanwhile growers need to put in place a collective agreement for their business in order to insulate themselves as far as possible. They have done about 60 agreements so far for growers, with all of these having gone through the industrial relations approval process.

Ms Mogg said that the brief provided to the AIRC by deputy PM Julia Gillard clearly set out that the process of award modernisation would neither disadvantage employees or employers. She said that it would seem that the brief has had little impact on the deliberations by the AIRC. Growcom conducted a survey of growers across Australia on behalf of the Horticulture Australia Council. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Wong defends water purchases**

*Stock & Land, 4 June 2009, p5*

Federal Water Minister Penny Wong told a Senate Estimates hearing in Canberra that water purchases, such as the \$303m Twynam buy-up did not involve consultation with affected communities, because it would be in breach of the Government's commercial negotiation with willing sellers. She said that the environmental argument for buying the entitlements was 'very strong'. She said that the effect of drought and climate change on rural communities has been far more significant than water buybacks.

Australian Farm Institute e/d Mike Keogh said that there should be an investigation into the affects on agriculture of major buybacks. He said that the Government is 'sacrificing a lot of economic gain for an uncertain environmental aim'. The new board of the Murray Darling Basin Authority met in Canberra this week charged with responsibility for developing a new basin plan by 2011. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Water buyback gets favourable review**

*Stock & Land, Victoria, 4 June 2009, p5*

A study by Monash University found the buyback scheme to be a positive for rural communities. The report stated that the purchase of 1,500GL of water from irrigators over the next eight years is likely to push water prices up and enlarge the water market in a period of drought induced depression.

Senior research fellow Glyn Wittwer, said that the Government would have the option of selling water in future droughts to alleviate water demand. He said that policies that slowed water trading (like Victoria's four per cent trading cap) were more likely to harm than benefit regional communities, by denying farmers the opportunity to sell their water entitlements at favourable prices. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **HAC Horticulture Award strategy**

*Drip Feed newsletter, Horticulture Australia Council, 4 June 2009*

A joint delegation of HAC, NFF and AiG met last week with Minister Gillard's representatives to outline the significant loss of traditional flexibilities (eg hours of work and piece rates) and the likely adverse impacts of the new Horticulture Award. Following similar concerns, Minister Gillard directed the AIRC to vary the Modernisation Award for the restaurant and catering areas of Hospitality. The delegation sought support from the Federal government for a two year moratorium and support for an 'intervention' to argue their case before the AIRC.

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## **HAC update on Code of Conduct**

*Drip Feed newsletter, Horticulture Australia Council, 4 June 2009*

The Code Committee held its third meeting on 5 May 2009 and is further evaluating implications that the ACCC recommendations to amend the Code may have for the horticulture industry. Industry perspective varied widely across industry sectors as well as within them. The committee is reviewing how some individual recommendations may affect the potential implications of others. A final report is being prepared and HAC chair Stuart Swaddling and the CEO will meet with Minister Burke's office on Monday 15 June to brief him further on the issue.

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## **Pear website a quiet achiever**

*Canberra Times, 3 June 2009, p4*

Coles offers suggestions for feeding the family for less than \$10 per meal (try four frozen meat pies on a bed of mushy peas for \$8.87) with meal suggestions and recipes on the Coles website (not quoted). APAL has created [www.rediscoverthepear.com.au](http://www.rediscoverthepear.com.au) to promote the 'quiet achiever in the fruit bowl'.

Australians are 'shopping for on-special items and bargains'...and are more aware of tactical shopping in the fruit shop 'buying seasonal fruit when it's at it's best price and taste', say APAL. In addition 'we're also using leftovers more efficiently and rediscovering versatile, classic ingredients'. The 'home front' column by Karen Hardy, quotes a recipe for 'White-wine poached pears and baked ricotta' from [www.rediscoverthepear.com.au](http://www.rediscoverthepear.com.au) and discusses the Australian Women's Weekly publication 'The \$ Smart Cook' (Cost \$34.95) that provides recipes and advice in tough times.

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## **Dietician promotes apple benefits**

*ABC Darwin, 2.27pm, 2SM Sydney, 8.41am, 2 June 2009*

Interviews with Karen Kingham, dietician and author, discuss the health benefits of apples, noting that they are rich in antioxidants and responsible for benefits such as protection from colds and flu. Research was conducted on male cyclists by North Carolina University. They are associated with a reduced risk of lung cancer and asthma. Kingham talks about Pink Lady apples and said that apples are very affordable.

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## **Apples top source of antioxidant quercetin**

*Gold Coast Sun, Queensland, 3 June 2009, p72*

From Western Australia to the Gold Coast and Brisbane (Queensland) and south to Newcastle (NSW and Ballarat (Victoria), the media promotion headlines how apples keep colds and flu away. Dietician Karen Kingham explains the role of the apple antioxidant quercetin identified in reducing upper respiratory tract infections in a study of male cyclists. Quercetin has been shown to have both anti-viral and anti-bacterial effects and apples are the second highest contributor of dietary quercetin intake in the Australian population next to black tea, she said.

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## **Groups look to water sales as strategic buy-outs**

*Shepparton News, 3 June 2009, p4*

During the past few months, the Victorian Farmers Federation has been negotiating water sales with the Federal Government on behalf of about 100 irrigators with about 80GL of water to sell. VFF Water Resources chairman Richard Anderson said that five groups are involved, not all are Goulburn Murray Water customers. He said that strategic buyouts are needed to purchase water from poor agricultural areas in exchange for funds for affected communities and on-farm upgrades. An impending announcement by the Federal and Victorian governments is expected to include at least some of these principles.

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## **Future Orchards 2012 and Winter Pear School**

*APAL notice, 1 June 2009*

Future Orchards 2012 will hold orchard walks over the next 10 days across production areas in Australia. All sessions run from 1.00pm to 5.00pm, with a BBQ lunch preceding some events. Locations and dates are Western Australia (12 June), Stanthorpe Qld (15 June), Adelaide Hills (15 June) Orange NSW (17 June), Huon Valley Tasmania (17 June), Batlow NSW (18 June), Southern Victoria (19 June) and Northern Victoria (22 June).

The Northern Victoria meeting venue has changed to the Ardmona Community Club, Lenne Rd, Ardmona, commencing with a BBQ at 12.30pm. The orchard walk later in the afternoon is at Lenne's Orchard, 90 Minchin Rd Ardmona. Contact Richard Hawkes at the APAL office on 03 9329 3511 for more information.

The Winter Pear School to be conducted in the Goulburn Valley will run for three days from 16 to 18 June with workshops and orchard visits. It will be held at DPI, Ferguson Rd, Tatura. Contact [angie.grills@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:angie.grills@dpi.vic.gov.au) or phone 03 5871 0607 for more information, or the DPI website for the program and registration see [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au) .

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## **Nominations sought for Farm Biosecurity Award**

*Tendrils newsletter, Plant Health Australia, 1 June 2009*

Nominations are sought by 10 July 2009 for the Farm Biosecurity Award. This is one of five categories under the inaugural Australian Rural & Outback Awards. The Farm Biosecurity Award will reward individuals or groups who are working hard to safeguard their own businesses and the Australian agriculture industry, as well as promote the importance of biosecurity to a wider audience. The winner will receive a cheque for \$2,000 and a hand crafted glass trophy. See [www.awardsaustralia.com/ROA.html](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/ROA.html) or phone 1300 735 445. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **New Zealand**

### **Changes to RSE scheme**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: [radionz.co.nz](http://radionz.co.nz), 4 June 2009

Workers in the Recognised Seasonal Employers' Scheme must pay for health insurance under changes announced by the Government, but will have more flexibility to move between employers. Employers will be responsible for arranging health insurance for the employees, who are not eligible for free healthcare during their stay, but the cost will be met by workers.

Immigration Minister Jonathan Coleman also announced an addition to the current scheme, where a Supplementary Seasonal Employment scheme will allow employers to recruit people already in New Zealand on visitor permits. The new Supplementary Seasonal Employment permits will be for six months. Dr Coleman says 7,000 workers were brought into the country by 138 accredited employers last year and 80 per cent of those workers returned this season. [Return to Front Page](#)

### **Mall based promotion has benefits**

*The Orchardist, May 2009, pp10-11*

Lisa Cork, consumer marketing consultant, said that there are many ways to provide in-store promotions. But a new approach is to provide 'mall based shopping,' where a sampling promotion is conducted in the shopping mall, possibly outside the main supermarket. By agreement with the shopping mall owner this type of promotion appeals to a broader range of shoppers. Supplemented with a recipe book or other promotion material can encourage the taster to a future purchase. Conversely 'mall based shopping' may miss the impulse sales that come from being on-site and in the supermarket. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Managing russet in new apple varieties**

*The Orchardist, May 2009, pp12-18*

John Wilton, Deciduous Fruit Specialist, AgFirst, discusses the sensitivity to russet of new apple varieties Envy™ and Tentation™. Pacific Queen™ and Pacific Beauty™ are two other susceptible varieties. Low tree vigour, slow drying sprays, genetic disposition and spring rain all increase the incidence of russet.

Dwarf rootstocks need to be managed to protect against russet. The essentials of russet management are good frost protection, good spring leaf cover for sensitive fruitlets and healthy root systems. Excessive crop load will shut down essential growth of dwarfing rootstocks.

Tree management in the first two to three years needs to recognise the natural growth habit of the variety. Strong, upright growth (eg Jazz™ and Pink Lady™) require very different tree management to varieties with weeping growth habits such as Fuji and Envy™. Low vigour varieties also need a different approach to high vigour varieties.

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## **Fruit breeding needs dreams supported by hard cash**

*The Orchardist, May 2009, pp22/23*

Cromwell plant breeder John McLaren established his own nursery in 1985 near Alexandra. Formerly a plant breeder at DSIR, he successfully bred the apple variety Sonya from crosses of Gala x Delicious made in the late 1980's. In 1997 he formed the Nevis Fruit Company with partners Pierre Riou from the south of France and David Decalo (now living in Boulder, Colorado). A fourth partner Pascal Fellay from Switzerland is no longer in the business.

He currently has 6,000 apricot and 7,000 apple seedlings and each year selects about 10 apricot seedlings and 10 apples for planting out for further evaluation. All new varieties are protected by NZ PVR. The business has also released a series of late apricots. He said that plant breeding can be very difficult to get dreams supported by hard cash. He said that a new variety needs consumer appeal, must be easy to grow and pack and be able to withstand a long trip by sea freight to overseas markets.

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## **Nursery looks to latest practices and innovation**

*The Orchardist, May 2009, pp26-27*

Nelson based fruit tree producer Waimea Nurseries started growing apple trees on dwarf rootstocks in 2000. Their focus is on innovation and research and they maintain the latest nursery practices, growing methods and machinery innovations. The company is the sole NZ member of the International New Varieties Network (INN), that links the world's largest pipfruit nurseries with global variety development alliances. Club variety releases include Sonya and Tentation. They are also involved with joint venture pipfruit orchards with a total area of 60ha. The first jv orchard was planted in 2001.

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## UK / Europe

### **Netherlands apple and pear stocks at 1 June**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , 9 June 2009

Netherlands apple stocks on 1 June 2009 were 47,000 tonnes, up from 43,000t and 44,000t at the same time in the in the previous two years. Pear volumes were 6,000t, down from 10,000t and 16,000t in the previous two years. The main variety of apples is Jonagold (including Jonagored) with 35,000t and Conference pears make up the total volume of 6,000t.

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### **Ten years of research work on GMO apple trees destroyed by vandals**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *hortsources.co.nz*, 8 June 2009

On 1 June 2009, 270 apple trees on a trial site owned by the Institute for Breeding Research on Horticultural and Fruit Crops of the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) in Dresden-Pillnitz, Germany, were destroyed by unknown intruders. Most of the trees were genetically modified plants being grown in tubs in a special safety tent under field-like conditions.

It is the first time that protesters have destroyed plants that were not being grown in the field. The institute estimates the cost of the damage to be around €700,000. Around ten years of research work has been destroyed. The institute in Pillnitz has been working on the development of transgenic apple trees since 1997. One of the key areas of research is methods of controlling apple scab, apple powdery mildew and fire blight.

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### **Next European pear harvest later and lighter**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *Fructidor.com*, 3 June 2009

Harvests will be later in France and Portugal about five days and in Italy and Spain about one week. The volume and area of pear cultivation will be smaller than the previous season. The area of Abate Fetel pears that are cultivated in Italy will be smaller by about three per cent.

In France, the volume of William pears will decrease about 10 per cent. Only production of Rocha in Portugal will remain at last season's level and will reach around 95,000 tons.

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## North America

### **Review tackles climate change, sustainable and organic agriculture**

*Good Fruit Grower, 15 May 2009, pp27*

The most contentious issues included in the strategic plan to 2020 prepared for Washington agriculture were climate change and sustainable organic agriculture, according to steering committee member Keith Mathews. Climate change would add more restrictions and compliance layers on Washington agriculture, according to the report. While there is a push for sustainable agriculture it means different things to different people, said Mathews. Sustainability and organic were considered under the priority of 'harnessing emerging opportunities'.

The report calls for continued promotion of locally grown products and institutional buying of Washington products. It also recommends consolidation of the definition and certification requirements for sustainability, an enhanced regulatory structure to assure integrity of organic production and more R & D and teaching in organic and alternative production and the marketing of the products. [Return to Front Page](#)

### **Taiwan sets own MRL rules, slowly**

*Good Fruit Grower, 15 May 2009, pp28/29*

Fruit exporters to Taiwan this season will need to understand the MRL requirements if they are to successfully access the market, according to Northwest Horticultural Council's v/p scientific affairs Mike Willett. He said that Taiwan is very slow in setting MRL's and that this has resulted in 11 containers of apples being rejected to the end of March.

He said that the detection of pesticide residues of endosulfan (Thiodan) or fenpyroximate (Fujimite) were below US MRL's. He said that Taiwan did not have an MRL for Fujimite and only has a provisional MRL for endosulfan. Rejected apples were either shipped back to the US or sent to another market.

He said that the Taiwanese authorities have told the US government representative that they have the expertise and capacity to set their own MRL's, without deferring to limits set by Codex or their trading partners. Willett added that the situation is a serious barrier to trade and needs to be fixed before the bulk of the summer fruits are exported. [Return to Front Page](#)

### **Apple grafting encourages apple eating**

*Good Fruit Grower, 15 May 2009, pp36/37*

Joe Sabol taught agriculture at schools for three decades and for the last decade has been teaching kids how to graft apple varieties. He coordinated apple grafting in 20 California high schools and four junior high schools this spring. He is a member of the not for profit California Rare Fruit Growers and solicits their members to help with the lessons, as well as some of his former students.

They go through about 2,000 apple trees in a three week period each year. He also teaches the trade to troubled kids trying to get back on track to graduate from high school. He said that kids get excited about grafting apples and they become excited about wanting to eat the fruit. It also spurs interest in locally grown food. He has an apple tree at home with 100 different apple varieties on it. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Columbia River shoreline undergoes transition with Stemilt support**

*Good Fruit Grower, 15 May 2009, p40*

Sixty five volunteers from Stemilt Growers Inc., Wenatchee Washington, planted native plants along the Columbia River shoreline recently, as an activity in the company's Responsible Choice program, which began in 1989 at the instigation of company founder Tom Mathison. It is a part of Stemilt's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. In partnership with other businesses and organisations, it is hoped that it will be the first stage in the restoration of the river's commercial water front, said Stemilt.

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## **South America**

### **Market for Chile apples in the US**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , 8 June 2009

The imported apple season keeps rolling along, but with less momentum than in previous years at this time of the year. Remarkably, loadings to the east coast are up on almost all varieties except Fuji. This is probably less a reflection of exporter confidence in the USA market as it is a waning of confidence in other markets for Chilean apples.

In recent weeks, interest in imported Royal Gala apples has increased. Today, Royal Galas are selling at US\$ 24-26 for 70's and 80's, US\$ 20 – 24 for 90's and US\$ 20 - 22 for 100's.

Granny Smith movement is not quite as dynamic and movement is slow. There seems to be a greater interest in 100's and 110 than in the larger sizes. Prices today are US\$ 20 – 24 on 70's and 80's and US\$ 20 – 22 for 90's (although there are a lot of offerings at lower prices). The smaller 100's and 110's are selling more briskly at US\$ 18 – 20.

Braeburns are selling slowly in a wide price range of US\$ 18 – 22. Pink Lady and Cripps Pink are moving very well at US\$ 26 – 28 for 70's and 80's and US\$ 24 – 26 for 90's.

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### **Chile production forecast to ease in harvest 2009**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *Fructidor.com*, 29 May 2009

New production estimates in Chile for year 2009 have been adjusted downward. Higher than normal temperatures have had an effect on the colour and faster maturing of the fruit, determined by a lower pressure reading of the pulp, leaving higher volumes of fruit out of export quality.

For example, Gala, which represents 39 percent of exports, fell 15 percent due to color, size and pressure and red varieties, like Delicious, which represent over 23 percent of exports, are expected to fall close to 20 percent. Green varieties like Granny Smith, which represent 17 percent of exports, are also expected to fall mainly due to sun burning stains, size of the fruit and pressure. Overall exports are forecast to fall.

The coming year 2010 is forecast to return to the 2008 volumes, due to expanded production, new orchards coming into production and replanting with higher yielding varieties.

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## South Asia

### Himachal apples battling imports and the weather

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [dnaindia.com](http://dnaindia.com), 29 May 2009

Popularly known as the 'apple state', Himachal Pradesh markets have been flooded with apples from China and Australia, throwing the local produce out of reckoning. Imported apples are gaining popularity for their sweetness and attractive colour. "The demand for imported apples is going up," Ramesh Chandel, a wholesale dealer, said. "Every day, we sell 30-40 cartons of Chinese and Australian apples."

Dr JS Sharma of YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry said the prolonged dry spell and the lack of adequate snowfall in the hills of Himachal Pradesh have pushed the Rs20 billion fruit industry to the verge of extinction. "About 81 per cent of the total cultivated area in the state is rain-fed and almost all districts in the state received deficient rainfall in the past few years. These ecological changes, caused by global warming, have affected the hill state and its apple production," he said.

"In January, the mean maximum temperature for Shimla district was 14.4 °C, 5.6 °C above normal. The mean minimum temperature was 5.8 °C, 3.8 °C above normal," he said. The worst crop due to a lack of snow was in 1999-2000, when production came down to nine million standard boxes from the usual 25-27 million boxes.

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## Los Angeles Market Report

LA wholesale on 9 June 2009 provided by: Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA.

| Source      | Variety       | Pack       | US \$ Min | US\$ Max | AU \$ Min | AU \$ Max |
|-------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Washington  | Red Del       | 18 kg      | 12.00     | 25.00    | 14.83     | 30.90     |
| Washington  | Golden Del    | 18 kg      | 10.00     | 22.00    | 12.36     | 27.19     |
| Washington  | Fuji          | 18 kg      | 12.00     | 28.00    | 14.83     | 34.61     |
| Washington  | G Smith       | 18 kg      | 10.00     | 24.00    | 12.36     | 29.67     |
| Washington  | Gala          | 18 kg      | 14.00     | 30.00    | 17.31     | 37.08     |
| Oregon      | Anjou         | 20 kg      | 20.00     | 29.00    | 24.72     | 35.85     |
| Washington  | Anjou         | 20 kg      | 22.00     | 22.00    | 27.19     | 27.19     |
| Chile       | Bosc          | 18 kg      | 22.00     | 26.50    | 27.19     | 32.76     |
| Chile       | Packham       | 18 kg      | 24.00     | 24.50    | 29.67     | 30.28     |
| Oregon      | Red Anjou     | 10 kg      | 16.00     | 16.00    | 19.78     | 19.78     |
| New Zealand | Taylor's Gold | 1 lyr tray | 19.00     | 19.00    | 23.49     | 23.49     |
| California  | Apricots      | 2 lyr tray | 24.00     | 34.00    | 29.67     | 42.03     |
| California  | Cherries      | 6.8 kg     | 25.00     | 52.00    | 30.90     | 64.28     |
| California  | Nectarines    | 2 lyr tray | 20.0      | 30.00    | 24.72     | 37.08     |
| California  | Peaches       | 2 lyr tray | 8.00      | 26.00    | 9.89      | 32.14     |
| California  | Plums         | 2 lyr tray | 14.00     | 14.00    | 17.31     | 17.31     |

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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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Currency conversions are for guidance only and were obtained from the Bloomberg Currency Calculator which can be found at <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/currencies/fxc.html>

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