



Auscitrus

SUMMER / AUTUMN
2010

NEWSLETTER

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Merry Christmas!

Important notes:

- Closing date for budwood orders is **Thursday 31st December 2009.**
- Last dispatch for 2009 is on **Monday 28th December.**
- First dispatch for 2010 is on **Tuesday 12th January.**

RIVER ROAD FACILITY OPENING

After some 5 years of planning and construction we have finally come to the end of the development of the new Auscitrus property on River Road, Dareton, officially called the Auscitrus "Coomealla block" (named after the Dareton Coomealla Irrigation district).

Attendance by growers and nurseries was good, especially given the oppressive heat of that day! The official unveiling of the plaque was done by Pat Barkley—appropriate given Pat's long history with the budwood scheme and citrus health in general. This was followed by a tour of the facility and morning tea.

This marks the start of a new era for Auscitrus. We are now able to make use of this new facility and improve the production and efficiency of the scheme in several areas.

The number of seed trees has been greatly expanded for all varieties in demand, which will see a large surplus of seed in 3-4 years time. This will satisfy demand for some varieties that are now in short supply, and will help to satisfy an increasing demand for seed for overseas customers. Production efficiencies may see seed prices reduced even further for bulk orders.

Budwood trees are being propagated and planted in stages, with all planting to be complete by Spring 2011. An advance drip fertigation system is being used on all plantings, which will provide strong early growth and allow more accurate fine tuning of nutrition to optimise bud production and quality.



The nursery facility has already been used for a couple of years, but all refinements are now in place and it is operating very efficiently. We are starting to see good numbers of buds come from the rapid multiplication system, and we now have the virus free foundation trees in the insect proof screen-house here (with backup trees still held at Camden). The new nursery facility should help alleviate the bottleneck in bud production following release from quarantine that has been causing supply problems for many years.

Finally, one of the most significant benefits of the new facility is the improvement in biosecurity. This is a facility owned and operated by Auscitrus, and we have full control over all movement of people, equipment and plant material on the property. This allows us to restrict access to essential personnel only, thereby limiting the risk of infection by citrus pathogens from outside our property.

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2010 BUDWOOD ORDERS

All budwood orders must be received by 5:00pm on the **31st December, 2009**, for Summer/Autumn 2010 supply.

Orders received after this date can only be supplied if there are excess buds above on-time orders, and so supply can not be guaranteed for late orders.

As this is a busy time of year, we request you place your orders earlier if

possible, so they can be entered into our system in advance. This will help us to resume supply of orders as quickly as possible after the Christmas break.

All outstanding Spring orders not called in for supply before the last dispatch of 2009 will be cancelled.

The last dispatch for 2009 will be on Monday 28nd December. Be

aware that this is a busy period for the postal system, and Auscitrus is not liable for consignments lost or delayed in transit.

The first dispatch for 2010 will be on Tuesday 12th January.



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AUSCITRUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Auscitrus Executive committee is responsible for overseeing the general operations of Auscitrus, setting policy and strategic direction, and ensuring the scheme is operated in a manner that benefits the citrus and nursery industries as a whole.

A number of nominations

were received for the committee this year and an election was held to select the 5 committee members.

The new committee provides a good balance of nursery and grower experience, along with a wealth of knowledge on issues affecting Auscitrus into the future.

The executive committee for 2009/10 is:

Mike Arnold (Chair)
Wayne Parr (Vice Chair)
Ben Swayne
Steve Burdette
Kevin Parr

Member organisations and their delegates are as follows:

State	Member organisation	Grower representative	Nursery Representative
National	Citrus Australia Ltd (1)	K. Parr	
New South Wales	Nursery & Garden Industry NSW & ACT Limited (2)		G. Eyles B Swane
	Riverina Citrus	J Valenzisi	
	New South Wales Farmers Association (1)	J. Cade	
South Australia	South Australian Citrus Improvement Society (2)	M. Arnold	S. Burdette
	Citrus Growers of SA (1)	K. Andrew	
Victoria	Sunraysia Citrus Growers (2)	M. Keenan	G. Chislett
Queensland	Qld Nursery and Garden Industry (1)		W. Parr
	Queensland Citrus Improvement Society (1)	T Emmerton	
Western Australia	WA Fruit Growers Association Citrus Council (1)	G. Fawcett	

SEED SALES 2009

Sales of seed have returned to average levels after a few years of well below average sales. Total sales for 2009 so far are in fact well up, at 906 kgs (Auscitrus/QCIS combined sales), which is the highest sales on record.

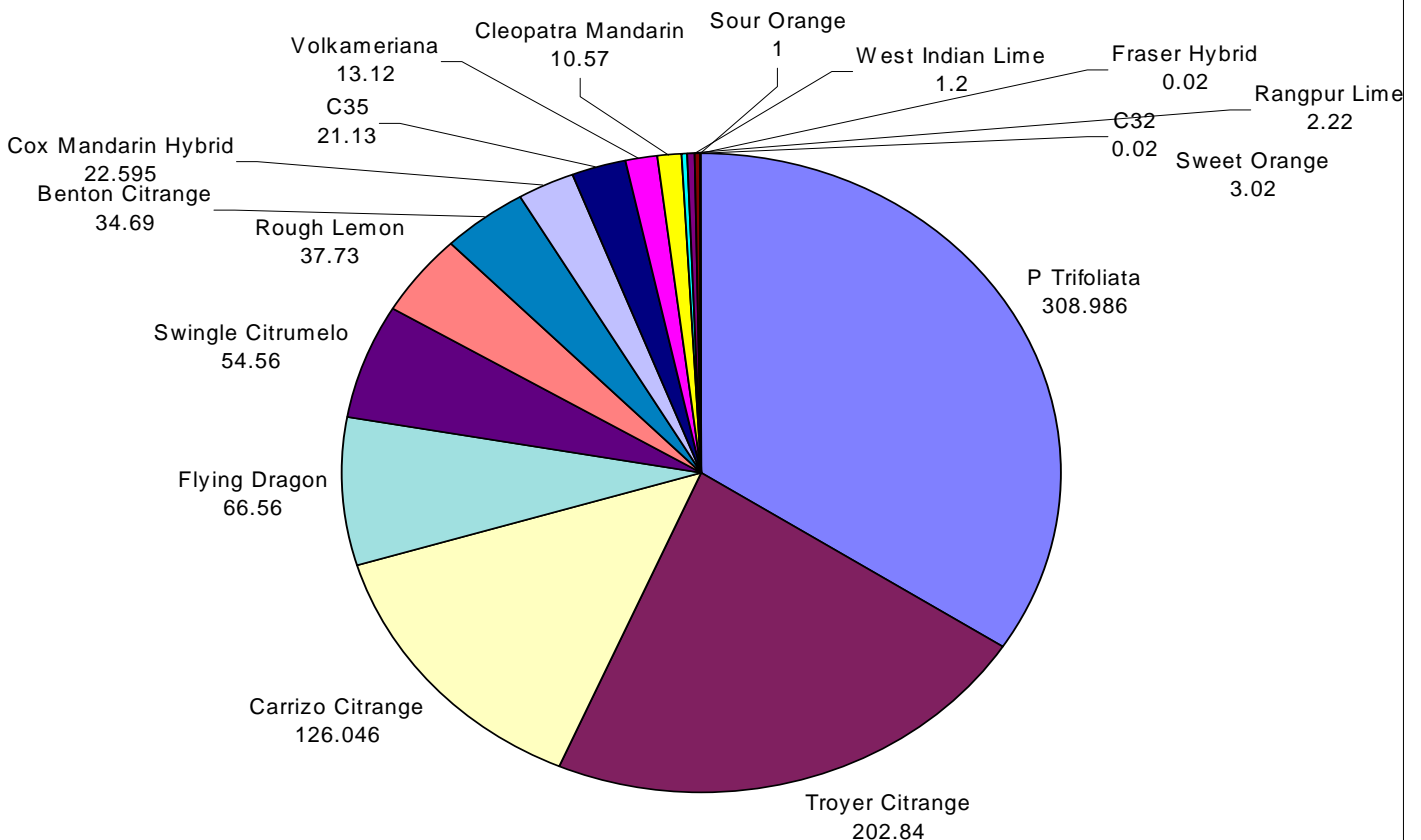
As usual *P. trifoliata*, Troyer and Carizzo citranges dominated total

sales. There were shortfalls in Rough Lemon and Flying Dragon as demand outstripped supply once again.

As is standard practice, seed germination tests were carried out on each batch of seed harvested, with no issues of poor or slow germination evident. Reports from most nurseries so far this season have been positive.

Seed is storing well also, with good supplies of Troyer, Carizzo, and *P. trifoliata* still in storage.

A large amount of seed has been sold to overseas customers. Note that all Australian orders are filled first, and overseas orders are only supplied if we have excess seed.



SHORTFALLS

There is often a small number of varieties that are in short supply, for both seed and budwood lines. In the seed lines Flying Dragon is regularly in short supply, and on the odd year Rough Lemon can be in short supply also. Of the budwood lines, there are routinely shortages of Lemonade, Kaffir Lime, Fingered Citron, and more recently Meyer Lemon. Although these are not commercially significant orchard varieties, we appreciate they are significant for the

retail trade sector. As such we are taking steps to eliminate these shortfalls. The number of Flying dragon seed trees in the new planting at River road will go to 60 trees, up from 15 trees at present. As they are a dwarfing variety they are also slow to grow as seed trees, however we expect the shortfall to be rectified within 3-4 years. We have planted additional budwood trees of the other varieties which are starting to produce significant budwood, and have also propagate a

number of nursery trees to produce budwood in the rapid multiplication system, for short term supply. It is impossible to guarantee full supply of all varieties all the time. We may only have demand for several hundred buds of a variety per year, so an order of thousands of buds will be very difficult to fill (as we won't have enough trees of that variety). Providing Auscitrus with advance notice of any large orders may help us to fill your order.

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*The staff at Auscitrus wish all our
customers and associates a merry
Christmas and a safe and prosperous
new year.*

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NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES