



# Auscitrus

Autumn  
2010

## Newsletter

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Seed orders*

*Bulk discount*

*Budwood sales*

*Predicted shortages*

*Seed treatment*

### Important notes:

- Closing date for seed orders is 30th April 2010.

### 2010 SEED ORDERS

All seed orders for 2010 supply must be received by the Auscitrus office no later than close of business on the 30th April 2010.

As a guide to likely delivery times if you require your seed as soon as it is extracted, the following list indicates roughly when the seed will be ready.

We will contact you when it is ready, as seasonal variations can change this somewhat.

You can of course leave the seed in our storage until you are ready for sowing in Spring.

Please ensure you notify us if you have specific delivery instructions.

Available **June**

Flying Dragon

*P. Trifoliata*

Available **July**

Carizzo/Troyer Citrange

Swingle citrumelo

Benton citrange

C32, C35

Fraser hybrid

Available **August**

Cleo mandarin

Cox hybrid

Rangpur lime

Sweet orange

Rough Lemon

Others



### BULK DISCOUNT

The price of Auscitrus seed has been kept the same this season, and the discounting system has been kept as per last year. Note that on larger orders our prices are competitive with overseas

seed suppliers. This resulted in some large overseas orders for seed last year, the profit from which goes back into the seed scheme to improve our overall profitability.

## 2009/10 BUDWOOD SEASON

**B**ud sales for 2009/10 improved slightly from 2008/09 sales, at 511,733 buds for Spring and Summer/Autumn combined. As can be seen in the chart below overall sales are still down from previous averages. The average was boosted in 2002-2005 by strong sales during the North West NSW juicing development, which also coincided with large corporate developments in Southern growing regions.

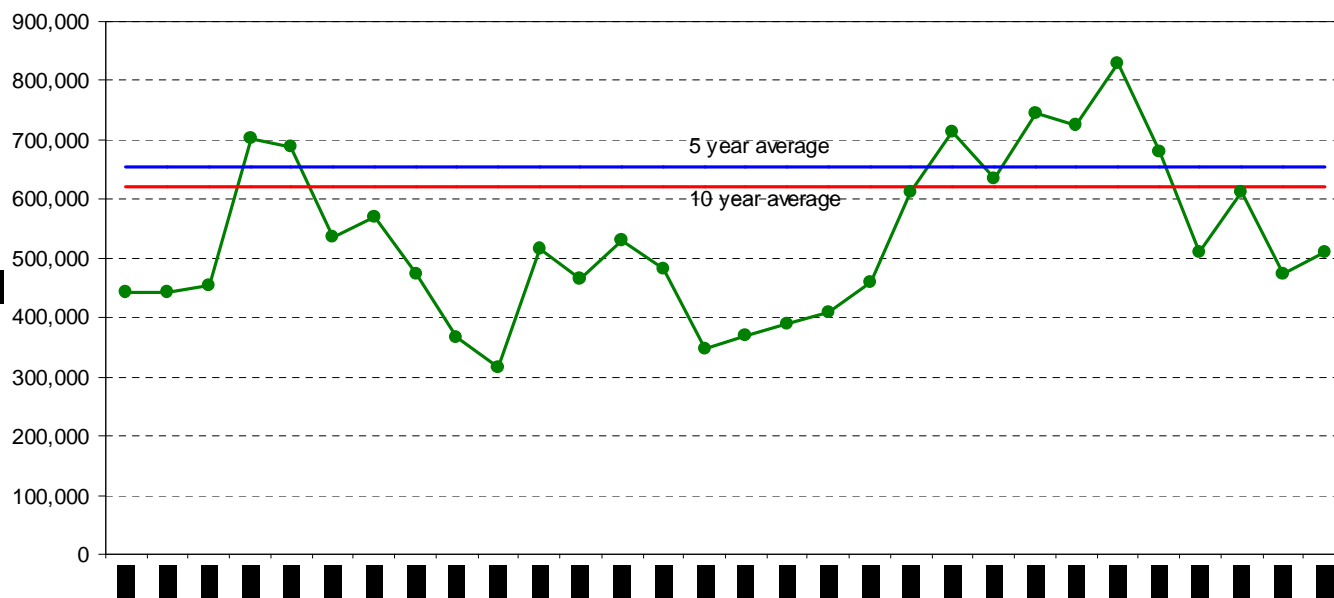
Current sales were predicted to be significantly lower than actual, so the budwood scheme is running ahead of budget at present.

The top ten sellers were mostly the same as in previous years, with the traditional varieties remaining popular.

Item Name	Total
Navel Washington	55795
Mandarin Imperial	53300
Valencia Keenan	50340
Lime Tahiti	46475
Lemon Eureka (Taylor 3402)	46040
Navel Late Lane	30925
Mandarin Emperor	27250
Lemon Meyer (806)	21892
Valencia Seedless McMahon	16280
Mandarin W. Murcott Afourer	14520

Above: top ten varieties for 2009/10

Budwood sales since 1980



## PREDICTED BUD SHORTAGES SPRING 2010

**B**ud shortages have been a problem for some of the minor retail varieties for some years. Production has been increased up to three-fold for many of these varieties through additional plantings, however demand has risen faster than production.

In an effort to meet demand we have been unable to hedge these varieties, however the trees are in need of pruning to invigorate them and increase the bud supply.

As such, it is likely that there will little if any supply of Kaffir Eyles, Kaffir Nathaneal, and Lemonade, and significantly reduced supplies of Meyer lemon, in Spring 2010. This will be confirmed in the Spring newsletter, however we thought additional advance notice may help nurseries work around this. There should be good supplies of buds in Autumn 2011 as a result of this delay.

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## SEED TREATMENT

Auscitrus seed has been treated with Thiram dust for many years now, and it has proven effective at controlling storage moulds in most cases. As anyone who uses it regularly will appreciate, it is a difficult chemical to handle, as the dust has a tendency to float around and coat surfaces whenever the seed is handled.

Barmac, the manufacturers of Thiram, have ceased producing the powder formulation of Thiram for this reason. We have exhausted our stocks of the Thiram dust, and Barmac are telling us there is none left in stock, so it is therefore unavailable.

In preparation for this we have been trialing alternative chemicals, including one very user friendly product that looks promising. There are also a number of interesting poly-coating technologies that may be of benefit.

We need to run extensive trials over a full storage season to prove this product however, so at this point we will continue to use Thiram, but in a liquid formulation.

This must be sprayed onto the dried seed in a mixer to thoroughly coat the seed, then re-dried. It is difficult to see if the seed is fully coated, and once treated it is difficult to see that it has been treated. This means we need to add a dye to the Thiram, both to be able to judge adequate coating, and to indicate to purchasers that it has been treated (this is in fact a legal requirement for seeds, hence why most vegetable or cereal seeds for sowing are coloured).

We will be adding a red dye to the Thiram solution, so seed dispatched from Dareton will not have any obvious dust on it, but will be dyed a pale pink colour. Storage trials have shown this treatment method to be as effective as the dusting, and it does not affect germination.

Red dye was chosen as the other colours available are blue or green. Since storage moulds are usually blue or green moulds (*Penicillium*) these dyes could mask any issues with storage moulds.

Note that QCIS still has stocks of Thiram dust, so for this season the seed dispatched from Qld will NOT be dyed pink, but will be obviously coated in dust as per previous dispatches.



This photo shows *P. trifoliata* seed treated with liquid Thiram and a dye on the left, and seed dusted with Thiram dust on the right. The final product will likely be a paler colour than this.

