

Citrus Industry 2017/18

There has been a change in the tide within the Citrus Industry in the MIA. Pricing in Navels have increased dramatically in the last twelve months. The expansion into the China market has caused a shortage in most export markets, driving the price north for most growers. China is still seeing a premium in pricing of around \$150 a tonne for premium lines.

We expect the market to flourish for the next few years while Australian Citrus is the preferred product in the Chinese market.

Valencia's have lowered from the record highs of the 2016/17 season; processors are still juicing the 2017 crop and look to start 2018 with carryover volume. Pricing has been stable around the industry with contracts in the \$300's and spot pricing slightly lower.

There has been large volumes of Lemons hit the market with domestic pricing falling.

Citrus Gall Wasp is continually expanding its presence in the region with Grapefruit and Lemons being preferred hosts. NSW DPI is working with industry to find suitable control measures but limited control has been experienced. Growers are urged to speak to NSW DPI if they have issues in controlling this pest.

Queensland Fruit Fly has had lower effects on Citrus this year, mainly due to the hot and dry weather experienced in the summer.

There has been an incursion of Citrus Canker in the Northern Territory early in 2018. This is currently being managed by a number of State and Federal departments. There has not been a date set for eradication and industries are waiting patiently for outcomes of this works.

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Griffith & District Citrus Growers Association