

# FUTURE ORCHARDS ` BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## Fruit Size Progress Report – Early February 2011

### Gala Group

Early district crops are now at the harvest stage. The earlier blocks are showing fruit sizing ahead of size trend lines, indicating that fruit size is either going to be rather large, or the size trend lines need adjustment to accommodate the shorter growing period between flowering and harvest, or both.

In comparison, Tasmania, a cooler growing district, is tracking right on the trend line we have used.

Figure 1 Tasmania Gala Fruit Size

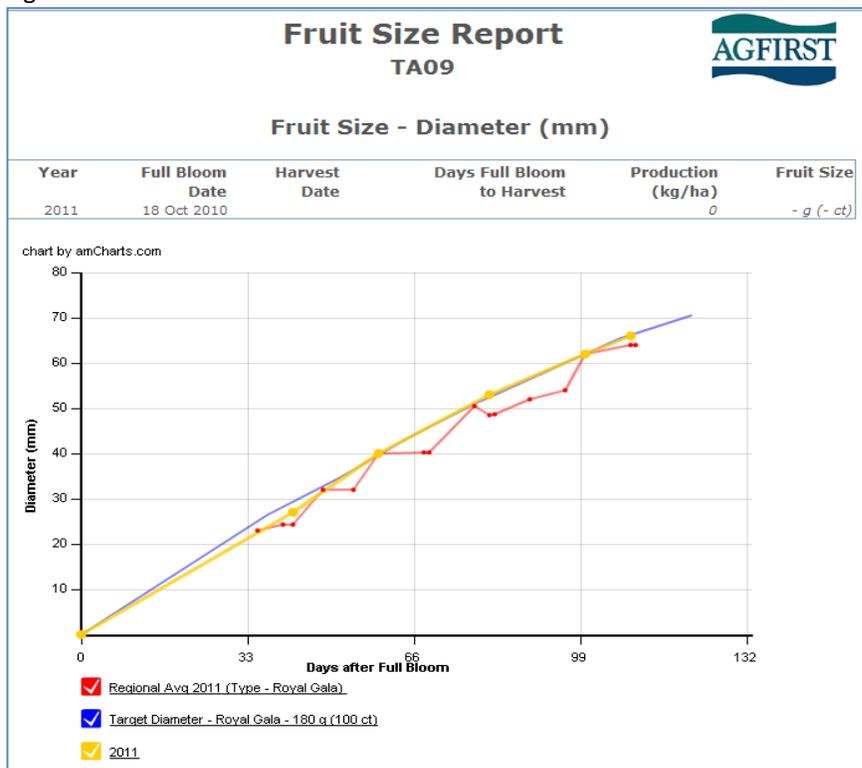
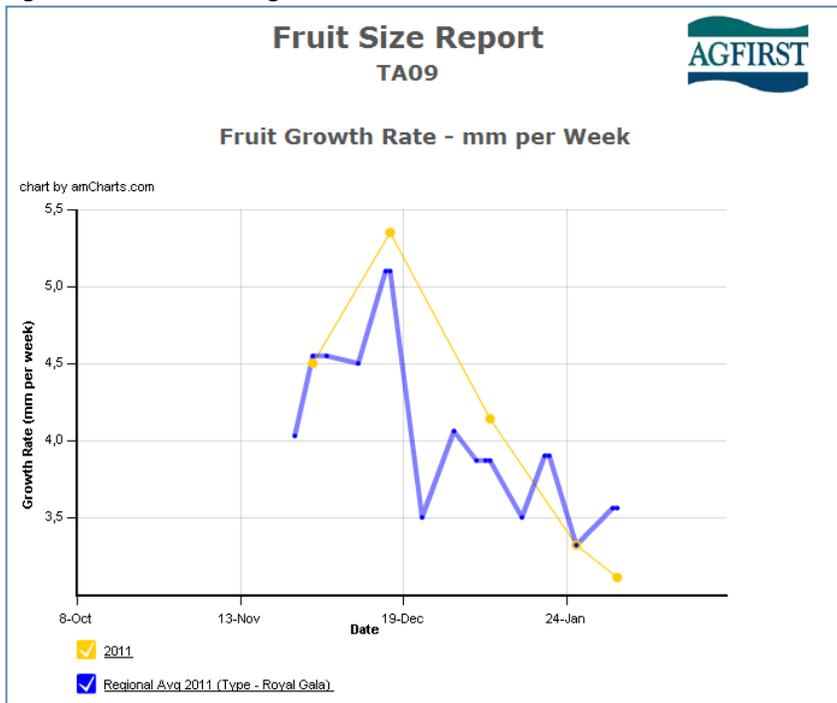


Figure 2 Tasmania Gala growth rate



There are also some regional differences emerging in regard to rate of sizing. Tasmanian fruit is still sizing at above 3 mm per week, Batlow and South Australia in the range of 2.5 to 3 mm per week, while Victoria has dropped from 3 mm per week down to below 2 mm per week. This is probably a reflection of the proximity to harvest. As you get closer and closer to harvest the diameter increase per week generally gets lower.

Figure 3 Gala Fruit Size Victoria

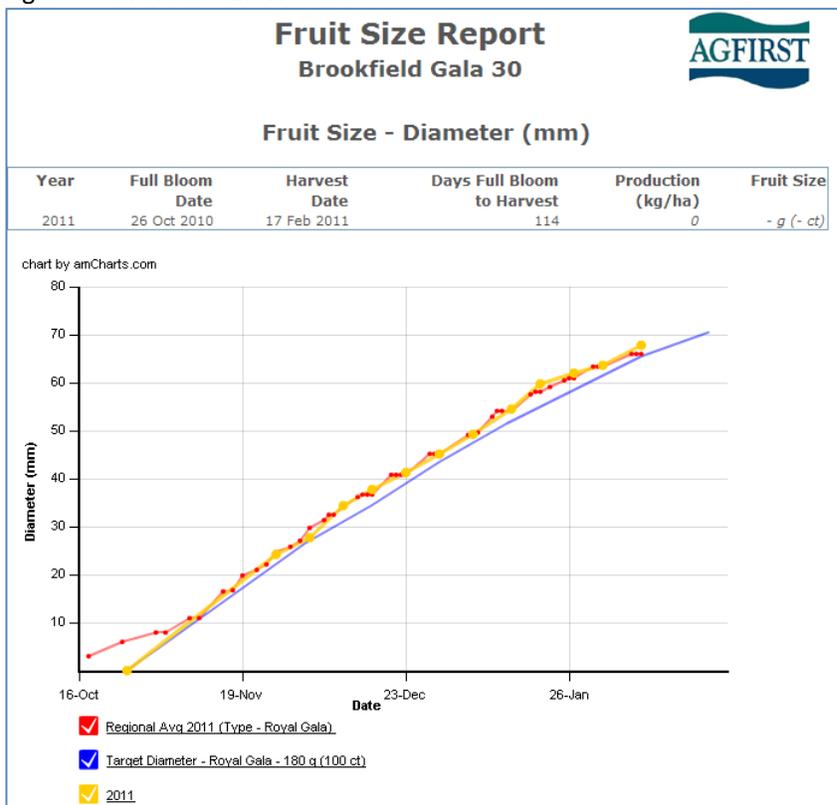
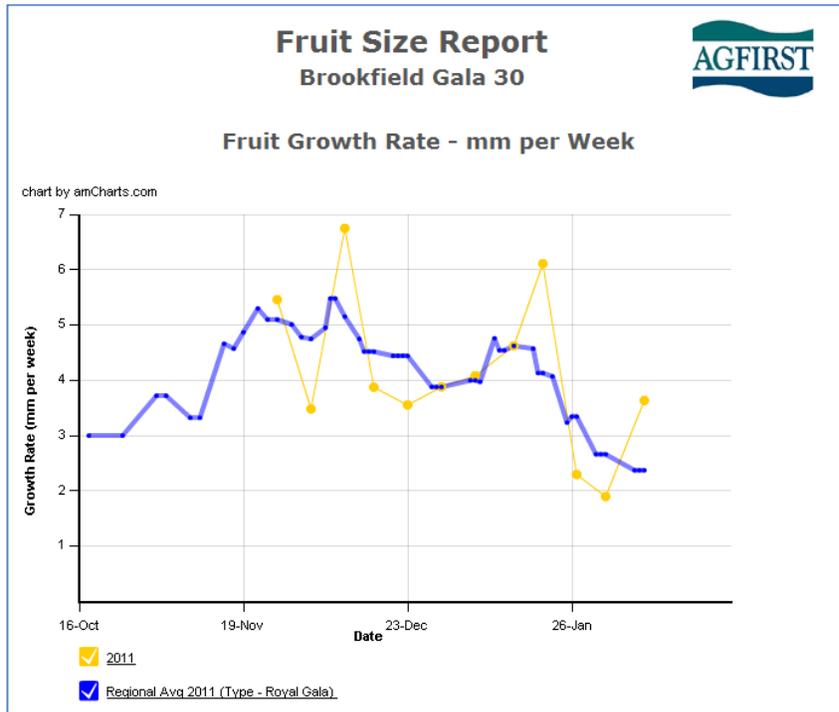


Figure 4 Victoria Gala growth rate (mm/week)



### Cripps Pink

Fruit sizing in this variety has slowed up to around 2 mm per week.

Figure 5 Victoria Block of Rosy Glow

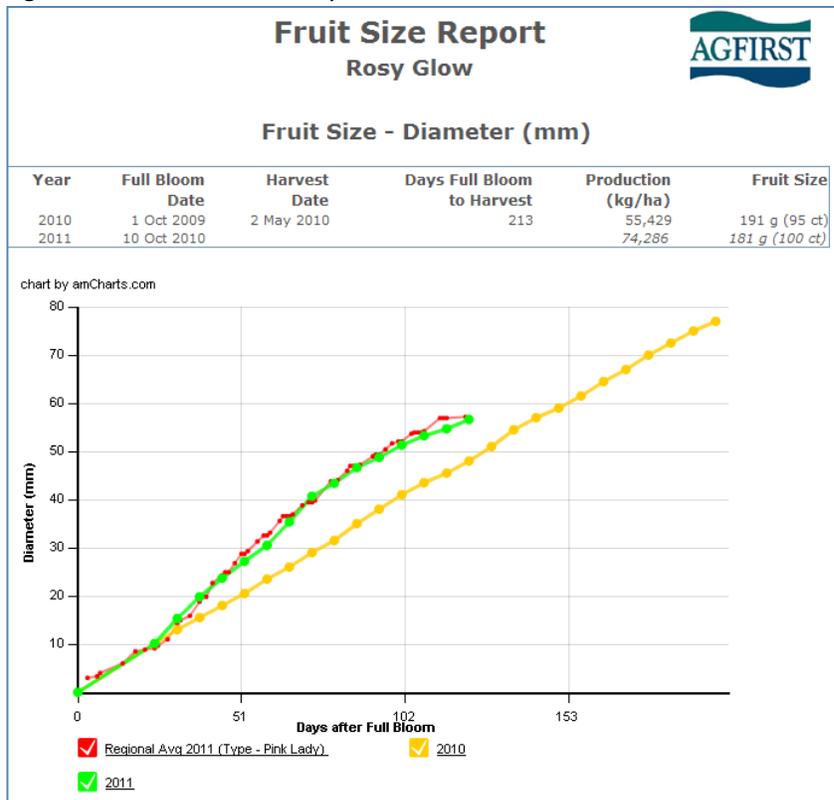
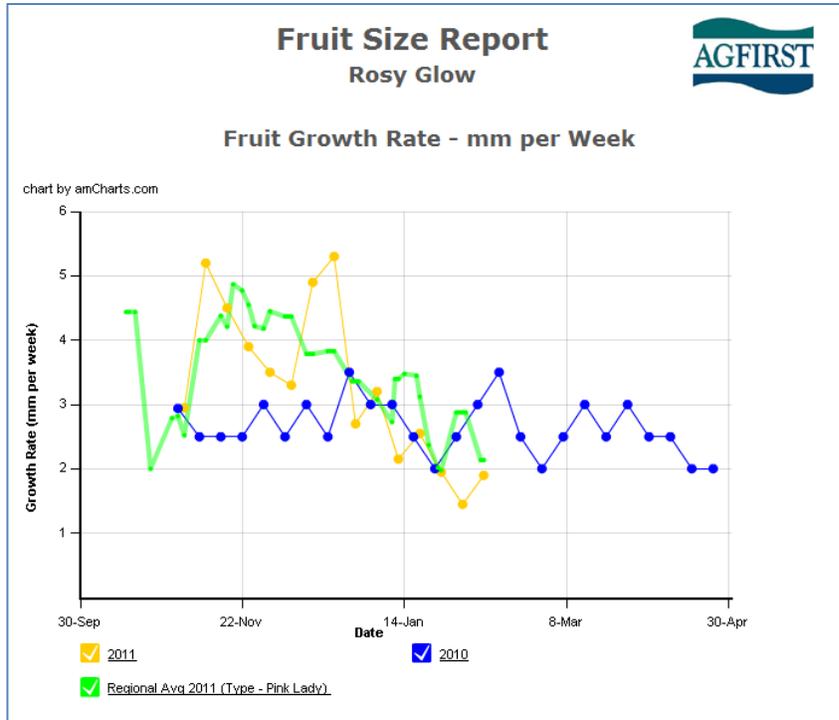


Figure 6 Victoria Rosy Glow growth rate (mm/week)



This block was showing rapid fruit growth early in the season with fruit size well ahead of last year. It has slowed to less than 2 mm per week and providing this slow rate of growth does not lift much, fruit size will be on target to avoid the large fruit that has been a problem for this block in the past. NB this is a young block that has an increased crop load in 2011.

A low rate of sizing at this stage in the season, however, should be viewed with some concern as this variety is liable to show calyx and fruit cracking problems if there is a significant growth spurt later in the season.

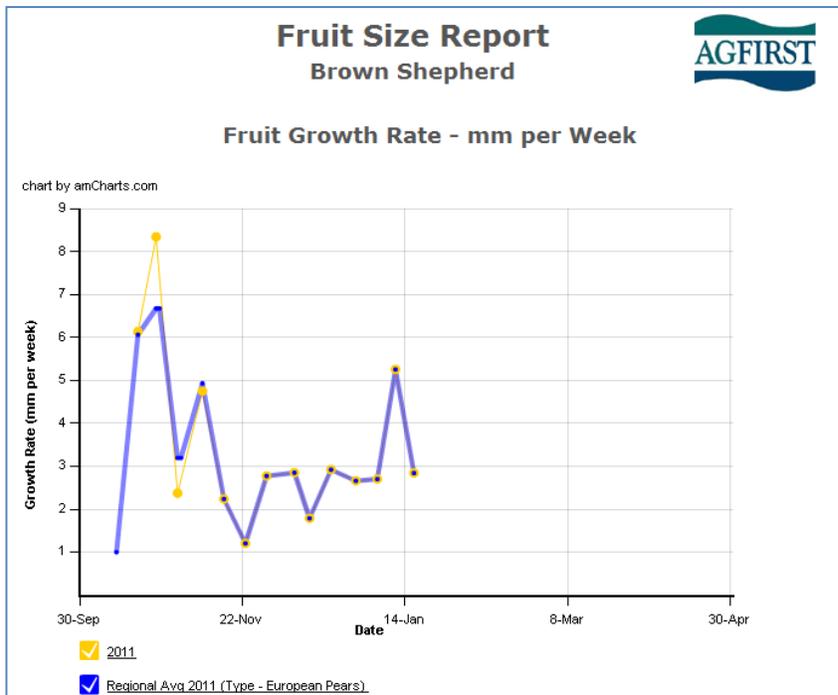
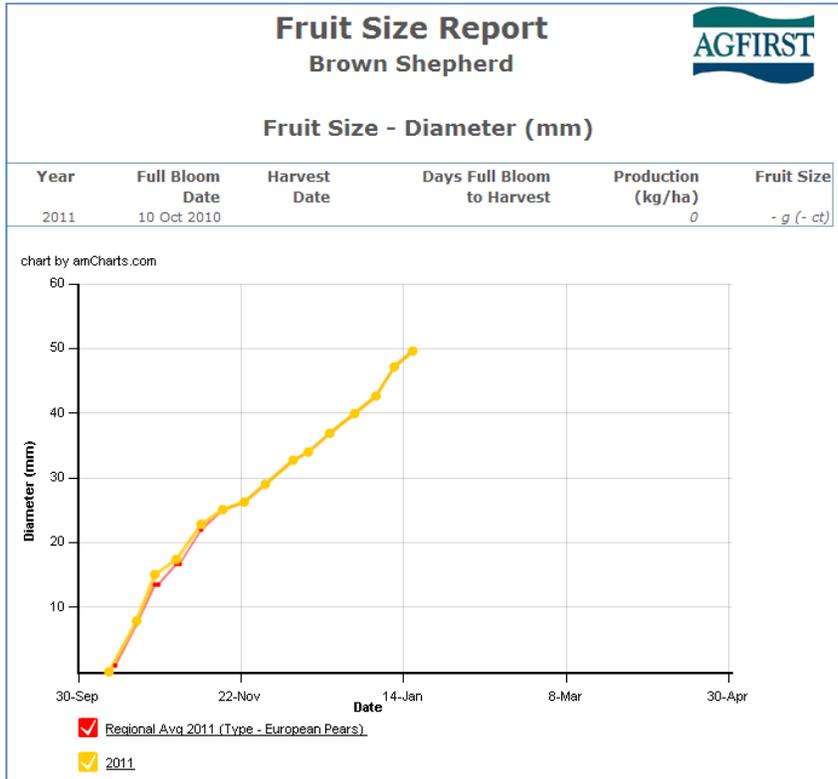
## Other Apples

Granny Smith is growing at 2 to 3 mm per week.

Fuji and Jazz™ sizing has fallen to around 2 mm per week.

## Pears

Pears are showing quite a different fruit growth behaviour to apples.



The growth curve, shown here for Packhams Triumph shows a double sigmoid pattern, beginning to emerge instead of the curvilinear apple growth pattern. Ross was in Victoria last week and the Packham pears looked very good crop and size wise.

## OrchardNet Reminder

With harvest approaching on many blocks, don't forget to take a fruit size reading close to the commencement of harvest and then to record the date of the first significant pick. This will allow us to look at the days from FB to harvest in each district and tweak the targets for future reference.

You should also record the yield harvested off the block and make a guestimate of packout and return.

This will allow you to run various block reports to see how your block against your own expectations and with the various benchmarks.