

Future Orchard 2012 – Orange, New South Wales Orchard Walk January 2007

Meeting commenced at Ken and Steve Perry packing shed 1.15pm.

David Gartrell welcomed all in attendance and gave a brief summary of the afternoon proceedings and speaker profiles.

John Wilton then spoke with the aid of power point presentation.

Marketable yield and Optimising Quality

Points emphasized were:

- Emphasis on matching maturity with final market destination – i.e. export needs early harvesting compared to grower markets.
- Due to Australian temperatures at harvest Gala variety may have to be picked every four days.
- Upper fruit has different maturity to lower fruit.
- Titratable acid levels could be included in specific guide
- Some reflective sheeting used on Fuji for colour
- Retain, affects fruit size and colour has some good application, can reduce some cracking
- Rootstocks influence maturity
- Humidity and soil moisture relative to end colour

Terence Robinson then addressed the meeting and spoke on:

How to Grow Large Gala Apples and the Evaluation Towards more Competitive Apple Orchard Systems in the USA.

Points discussed and emphasized were:

- Gala – assess your market – not always are the larger fruit the most profitable.
- Attention to pruning and thinning two most vital elements to good size fruit
- Evaluation of systems resulted in recommendation – Vertical axis 1.0 & 1.5m in tree row 3 metre row spacing 3 m tall on m9 rootstock if going in on good soil and irrigation
- MM106 rootstock abandon in USA
- Budagoski rootstock fire blight resistant
- Big lower branches help grow trunk size
- Importance of understanding the two graphs that relate to tree density/net present value

- Nursery tree quality and price US\$6.50 and \$1.00 royalty
- Bottom tree feathers no lower than 80cms
- New Geneva rootstocks will become available through ANFIC and Fleming's

ORCHARD WALK

Gala Block

- Complimentary on Gala size
- Critical on shortening back top of Gala trees
- Critical on row spacing
- Long discussion on thinning – timing/chemicals
- Tree structure/sun light harvesting/ fruit positioning
- Market opportunities relative to size

Cripps Pink

- Critical of row width – lack of space utilization
- Tree structure – limbs too low to the ground – need to increase height
- Consultants then left with DPI staff to visit rootstock trial block at research station Orange

MONITOR BLOCK Peter Darley 1/2/7

Discussion by John Wilton and Terrence Robinson on young tree structure

- Young trees pruned to demonstrate branch training methods
- Crop Load
- Rootstocks – agreed MMK106 was giving ideal size trees on monitoring block replant situation
- Consultants questioned on control apple leafhoppers that are prevalent in orchards with strong IPM Program – unsatisfactory answers from both John Wilton – must have been too late with Abamectin. Terrence Robinson – use Cabaryl – “we use it so often in the USA our predator insects have become immune”.
- Tree trace element problems especially zinc and magnesium discussed.

Consultants were taken on a district tour and lunch, Left Orange 1.30pm. 1/2/7