

## **Future Orchard 2012 – Orange, New South Wales Orchard Walk June 2007**

**Garry Langford** gave presentations

### **Varietal Strategies for Future Success and Nursery Tree Specification and Tree Type Description.**

The main questions of Gary were –

- Concern at the slow build up and availability of the M9 rootstock. Australian industry at a severe disadvantage due to the lack of virus tested M9 rootstock.
- The growing habits (vigour etc) of virus tested M6 and M26.
- Any listing or advice on incompatibility of some varieties to rootstocks.
- Still major dissatisfaction with Australian nursery trees provided to grower – interest in tree specification presentation with much discussion on implementation of same.

### **Ross Wilson**

Ross then spoke on a presentation prepared by Steven Spark – Pruning and Training to Maximise Marketable yield.

The growers various views and questions on:

- Bud numbers, bud counting and different setting habits of certain varieties.
- How to achieve a calm tree with the influences of soils, rootstocks, pruning and crop load.

Paul James gave his presentation on Economic Performance of High Density Orchards under Australian conditions.

Growers were extremely interested in Pauls' presentation and felt it was extremely relevant due to the size of the blocks included and grown in the Australian conditions. Questions of Paul were –

- Was the trial site replant ground?
- What soil preparation was carried out?
- Factoring in the cost of netting in future costings.
- Root stock performance.
- Inclusion of 2007 data.
- Quality of nursery trees used.

- Amount of irrigation water - was the same amount per hectare regardless of tree row spacings.
- Ron Gordon – Batlow has had good results with as little as 1 meg/hectare.
- Methods used to overcome biannual bearing.

Ross Wilson then gave a quick overview of Block Profitability.

Once again Ross encouraged growers to use the monitoring block data base.

Time was limited in this section as we had to allow for lunch – orchard walk and monitor growers meeting.

### **R.J.Armstrongs Gala/Golden Dels.**

Ross was a little taken back by the initial comment by one of the Armstrong boys as to where he should put the pruning saw on his arrival but he soldiered on and there was excellent interaction with growers.

Every grower prunes a little differently but the overall consensus on pruning for crop quality and volume was eventually agreed. We had a calm tree, now all we needed was calm growers.

### **Monitor Block Grower Meeting**

Held at R.S. and J. Pearce Orchard. 7 monitor block growers present.

Ross Wilson and growers moved straight into the orchard to take advantage of the daylight.

Discussion took place on:-

- Yield/ Hectare. Gala / Cripps Pink.
- Growers' expectations from block.
- Bud numbers – crop load – quality.
- Increasing crop load upper canopy.
- Light penetration.
- Block variation – vigour / soils.
- Limb removal – short term effect. Meeting concluded 6.30pm.