



Conference Program

Day 1: Thursday, March 1, 2012 – Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway

8:30 am to 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am to 9:45 am	<p>Keynote Address:</p> <p>John Warmerdam – Grower/Packer/ Marketer, California, USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early season varieties and rootstocks. • Packaging trends (loose v's slider bags, clamshells, pack sizes) • Marketing. What have we (Warmerdam Packing) done to increase sales relative to increased volumes? • Market access (export), fruit fly, fumigation
10:00 am to 11:15 am	<p>Presentation: Market Access and Queensland Fruit Fly – Simon Boughey (CGA CEO) – update on current status followed by a forum to determine “where to from here?”</p>
11:15 am to 11:30 am	Morning Tea:
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>Rootstocks – Varietal and Future – Australian Nurseryman’s Fruit Improvement Company</p> <p>New Machines into Chile and defect sorting technology – GP Graders</p>
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch:
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>Efficiency in Plant Nutrition – Tom Rowe, Hybrid Ag</p> <p>Cherry Chill Hours - Charlotte Brunt & Rebecca Darbyshire, Melbourne Uni PhD Research</p> <p>Chill Units – John Warmerdam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we monitor and use Chill Units to our advantage. • Dormex application. Its benefits and potential pitfalls.
3:00 pm to 3:15 pm	Afternoon Tea:
3.20 pm to 4.00 pm	Presentation: John Golding - DPI NSW, Retail Activation – Research Reports
4.00 pm to 4.45 pm	Group discussion: Review on the past cherry season
5.00 pm to 5.15 pm	Pre-dinner drinks with speakers and sponsors
7.00 pm - late	<p>Conference Dinner:</p> <p>Dinner Speaker: Mark Chapman – “Cherry marketing – surviving with lower prices”</p> <p>Entertainment: “Cherry Bombs”</p>

Displays, presentations or demonstrations available from the following major sponsors



Day 2: Friday, March 2, 2012 – Wandin Valley Farms

8:30 am	Leave Wangaratta for Field Day (20 min drive)
9:00 am to 10:30 am	<p>Workshop: Cherry Orchard Biosecurity – Plant Health Australia Meet at the shed for workshop then followed by an orchard walk Workshop will investigate and discuss topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key risk areas for the introduction of new pests and diseases onto the property • What easy steps can be taken to reduce the risk and impact of new pests and diseases • Major threats to the industry that are on Australia's doorstep • What measures are in place to protect growers in the event of a new pest incursion • Biosecurity guidelines for U-Pick Farms and Farm Gate
10:30 am to 10:45 am	Morning Tea:
11:30 am to 12:00 pm	<p>Orchard Walk : Tim Jones–Wandin Valley Farms & John Warmerdam (USA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation – drip or jet? Irrigation – automation, an overview (Mait Industries) • Fleming's Nursery (Grahams FacTree) test site visit • Shade cloth – does it work? • Straw mulch – does it add value? • Vase, Central Leader, KGB, UFO, Trellis, Row/tree spacing.....which ones for you?
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch:
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	<p>Workshop: Managing Weather Risk – SARDI & BOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of quality cherries involves managing the risk of rain at harvest, frost, heat waves, poor weather at pollination, getting the right amount of winter chill and summer warmth, avoiding hail and wind damage and getting enough rain during winter and autumn to fill soil profiles and dams. • Most risk management guidelines step through the process of identifying the risks; assessing the likelihood of the risks and then managing the risks. In this workshop we will provide an overview of how we have used the crop calendar to identify the risks and show participants our analysis of the likelihood of the different risks. Reports on the analysis will be available growers to take home and more information will be available on the web. We will then move into discussion of how we best manage these risks through using different strategies such as varieties, rainout shelters and frost mitigation <p>Orchard Walk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchard sprays and weed control – Muir's – an overview • Filtration & chemicals – Wobelea – "Is your water right for your application when it comes to hydro-cooling and packing
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	<p>Overview of Conference: Incorporating afternoon tea & drinks</p>

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