



# Apple & Pear World News

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## Australia

### **Wages premium for Pacific workers a deterrent for growers**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 25 November 2009, p9*

A pilot scheme of 50 workers from Tonga and six from Vanuatu made up a contingent of workers under the Pacific Seasonal Worker Scheme last season and worked at Swan Hill and Robinvale before heading north to NSW and Queensland. But crews now ready in Tonga wait in vain, as no requests have been made for their services, according to a spokesman for Federal Employment Minister Julia Gillard.

Growers must pay \$23.20 per hour or more for Pacific labour, while Australian labour pays \$18 per hour. Growers like Sam and Marianne De Maio, Swan Hill stone fruit growers for 22 years, say they have no trouble finding Australian workers and cannot afford to pay the Pacific Island rates being asked. Mrs De Maio said that they can't be expected to pay from \$22 to \$25 per hour for Pacific labour. Other growers contacted by The Weekly Times agreed with Mrs De Maio.

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### **Heat set for November record, crops lost and then it rains and more crop falls**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 25 November 2009, p11*

Bureau of Meteorology climatologist Dr Blair Trewin said that November temperatures in Victoria have been 'absolutely abnormal'. The average maximum temperature across Victoria for the month so far is 6°C above normal and despite cooler conditions ahead, Victoria could expect the warmest November on record.

Table grapes in Sunraysia's NW Victoria experienced 15 consecutive days of temperatures above 30°C. Table Grape Association v/p John Argiro said that the heat stripped 20 to 30 per cent of his grape crop. Swan Hill Summerfruits Association chairman Michael Tripodi said the heat caused his fruit to grow more slowly and ripen more quickly, making it difficult to get fruit to a suitable size to harvest. Then it rained and the fruit dropped, with remaining nectarines, white peaches and apricots left with blemishes.

### **Federal Agriculture and Water ministers have general support two years into their tenure**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 25 November 2009, p23*

Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke has received qualified support from industry leaders two years into his portfolio. Horticulture Australia chairman Stuart Swaddling said that the Minister came in cold and has gone out of his way to get out and get an understanding of the industry. Australian Dairy Farmers president Wes Judd offered similar praise.

Water Minister Penny Wong has received a qualified tick. VFF water council chairman Richard Anderson said that Ms Wong is on a hiding to nothing in such a big portfolio and hasn't done too badly in a difficult policy area. He said that pushing buy-backs ahead of irrigation upgrades was a wrong call. NSW Irrigators e/d Andrew Gregson also criticised the focus on buy-backs.

## **Export inspection subsidy returned, industries seek refund**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au), 25 November 2009

Fruit and vegetable growers want a refund of export fees paid under a failed reform of the quarantine system. Earlier this year, the Federal Government cancelled a 40 per cent subsidy on export inspection costs. But the subsidy has now been reinstated until 2011, after the reforms failed to get Senate approval.

Kris Newton, from the Horticulture Australia Council, said that the fees need to be repaid. "We're concerned that some of our industries have in fact been paying the increased fee rates since the July this year," she said. "The government is saying that the rebates won't be retrospective, which basically means several of our industries, including citrus and some of the vegetable people, are going to be severely disadvantaged."

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## **Citrus industry asks for return of extra AQIS fees**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [citrusaustralia.com.au](http://citrusaustralia.com.au), 25 November 2009

Citrus Australia CEO Judith Damiani today welcomed the improved reform package for AQIS export certification. To implement reforms and quantify savings and efficiencies before the rebate is removed makes more commercial sense, she said.

"However we are still seeking special consideration for citrus exporters and growers who have paid the significantly higher AQIS fees during peak export season in July to September. We estimate the industry has overpaid AQIS approximately half a million dollars. It is wrong that the citrus industry is penalised for its export effort, particularly during tough conditions from the high exchange rate, increased competition from low cost countries, the global financial crisis and low water allocations," she said. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Victorian Senator not happy with states share of Federal water and support**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 25 November 2009, p28*

Victorian Senator and Family First Leader Steve Fielding in parliament last week, asked Senator Penny Wong why there is bias in the allocation of environmental water and funding towards South Australia (see last week's APWN). Senator Wong said that the decisions are made by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, an independent statutory authority. Senator Fielding suggested a fairer system that would make the decision making process more transparent and not exclude Victorian farmers.

Senator Wong almost simultaneously announced that NSW rivers and wetlands would benefit from a further 10.8GL or 10,800ML. NSW Minister John Robertson said that this would add to the almost 50GL or 50,000ML of water provided for environmental flows by the NSW Government. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Compost can improve farm productivity**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 25 November 2009, p93*

Consultant Bill Grant has established field demonstration sites in central Victoria for compost trials, noting that composted mulches can improve farm productivity, but it is important to use the right product in the right way. He said that not all composts are the same. He said that it is important that they have undergone heat treatment to sterilise weed seeds and kill plant diseases. Composts work best where soils are poor and water is limited. The demonstration sites include fruit orchards, vineyards and an olive grove. For more details contact Bill on 0407 882 070 or [billgrant@compostusersgroup.info](mailto:billgrant@compostusersgroup.info) . [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Temporary water price eases, allowing farmers to consider their purchase options**

*Country News, [www.countrynews.com.au](http://www.countrynews.com.au) , NE Victoria, 24 November 2009, p2*

Temporary water sale prices are at their lowest November level since 2006, following increased allocations and a decrease in demand. Fiona Critchton from Water Trading Australia said that there isn't a great influx of buyers, but dairy farmers and rice growers are starting to come back into the market. A lot of fruit growers have adequate water for their current season, given their allocation and access to carry over.

Kyabram orchardist Ian Puckey said that he would continue looking at prices and may purchase some water in the autumn (for carryover). "If higher allocations continue we will put in more trees," he added. The temporary trading price is currently at about \$180/ML. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **New Horti award not welcome, but ample workers expected to be available**

*Country News, [www.countrynews.com.au](http://www.countrynews.com.au) , NE Victoria, 24 November 2009, p3*

Goulburn Valley fruit growers are concerned at the looming start to the new Horticulture Award that is currently under review by the Industrial Relations Commission. The proposed award will require pickers to be paid double on Sundays and not to work on public holidays. Ardmona's Andrew Plunkett said that when apricots are ready they have to be picked, public holiday or not.

Another Ardmona grower, Chris Turnbull, said that the award will significantly increase costs for Goulburn Valley growers. He said that the industry is already struggling enough from drought and overseas competition and doesn't need the extra costs that this award will create.

Harvest labour prospects remain good, with harvest labour co-ordinator Mike Kiss expecting plenty of fruit pickers to go around this season. He said that backpackers have started to come through since the start of November. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Organic cherries in Tasmania mid January, but order early**

*[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , 24 November 2009*

Due to the enormous demand for organic cherries in January experienced in the 2008/09 season, R&R Smith under its RAW Organics brand has asked its customers to register their estimated requirements for the season earlier than last year.

R&R Smith is one of the largest producers of Organic Cherries in Australia and the largest producer for the January/February selling period. Certified by NASAA in Australia, the cherries grow in the famous Tasmanian Huon Valley which is already internationally famous for the size and taste of conventionally grown cherries. Contact the marketing manager [peter@raworganics.net.au](mailto:peter@raworganics.net.au), Phone +61 412 631 952.

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## **Bat problem won't readily go away for Stanthorpe growers**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [nqr.farmonline.com.au](http://nqr.farmonline.com.au), 24 November 2009

From Ballandean in southern Queensland, where she farms with husband Michael, Ms Ferris prays there won't be a repeat of last year's devastation when \$400,000 worth of crops was lost to flying foxes. Just ten minutes away is NSW, where the flying fox risk is no less but growers have the permission of the Rees Government to shoot the bats in defence of their crops, while alternative, non-lethal methods of control are sought.

Queensland growers, like the Ferris family, don't have this 'luxury', ever since the Bligh Government banned flying fox culling in May last year, without consulting farming groups first and before alternative controls to using guns were put in place.

DPI Minister Tim Mulherin announced the establishment of a working group to investigate non-lethal control methods before harvest this year. But after a frustrating 12 months, Ms Ferris, who has been part of that working group, said that little progress has been made.

Despite the intense anxiety, Ms Ferris counts herself lucky. So far she is the only grower in the district to be fitted with an arsenal of flying fox deterrents as part of a State Government trial. Ms Ferris estimates the set-up has cost \$60,000 and none of the equipment has yet to be proved effective. But at least it's something, which is more than what other growers have around here, she said. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Rain welcomed in South Australia by Barmera cherry grower**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au), 23 November 2009

Heavy rainfall across the Riverland and Mallee has been a mixed blessing for farmers and growers. There was 21 millimetres of rain at Renmark airport, 27mm at Lameroo and 33mm at Loxton. Barmera cherry grower Joe Gropler welcomed the 30mm he received at his property. It's going to help us size the fruit that's left and we should be able to get bigger fruit for the late varieties, he said. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Pacific worker scheme labours under red tape**

*Sunday Age, Melbourne, Victoria, 22 November 2009, p7*

The Pacific worker solution for fruit farms has stalled, as red tape entangles a scheme initially hailed as a 'win-win' for labour starved growers and struggling island nations. Horticulture Australia Council c/e Kris Newton blamed bureaucratic controls that deterred growers, including the use of approved labour hire companies, and the lack of control given to regional advisory bodies set up to help run the scheme. Denita Wawn of the NFF said that the scheme had been a 'reality check' for some growers, who had assumed it would be cheaper. But the time taken to implement the scheme has been unacceptable.

A spokesman for Federal Employment Minister Julia Gillard said that the conditions attached to the scheme were to ensure that workers were protected by Australian workplace laws. Michael Tripodi, president of the Swan Hill Summer Fruits Association said that the costs involved just aren't realistic. He said that it's not fairyland on the land. "If we don't watch our pennies, if we're not efficient we'll go broke. It's as simple as that." (See also APWN article Weekly Times, 25 November, p9, above). [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Environmental flows to wetlands part of Living Murray program**

*Bendigo Advertiser, Central Victoria, 21 November 2009, p11*

Victorian Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings said that water will be released through the Living Murray program this season to restore environmental flows to significant wetlands along the Murray River. The water being supplied under the Living Murray program to Murray River regions includes 6,000ML to wetlands in NW Victoria and 3,250ML to wetlands in north central Victoria. The Living Murray program is a joint initiative funded by Victoria, NSW, SA, ACT and the Federal Government.

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## **Competition all around as apple growers anticipate inevitable imports**

*Tumut & Adelong Times, Regional NSW, 20 November 2009, p15*

Communications manager with APAL, Stuart Gray, said that it is inevitable that apples will begin to arrive from overseas, with the first foreign fruit possibly coming from China. He said that China does not have fire blight that is present in 49 apple producing countries, including New Zealand and the US, but not Australia.

He said that apple growers already face stiff competition from other types of imported fruit, including currently grapes from the US that are good quality and competitively priced and compete with the apple market.

Stuart Gray said that industry competitiveness has been enhanced by the Future Orchards 2012 program, a major project run for two years by APAL and the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. While that project ended in July 2008, the APAL board has extended the program through to June 2011 with funding support by Horticulture Australia Ltd.

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## **Rainfall slows irrigation demand, but little catchment run-off**

*Shepparton News, Goulburn Valley, NE Victoria, 19 November 2009, p3*

Despite about 30mm of rainfall in the Goulburn Valley and lower catchment regions and 100mm in the north east upper catchment last weekend, G-MW acting water resource manager Mark Bailey said that the hot dry spell preceding the rainfall had sapped moisture from the catchment and little run off is expected from the rain. A slight response on the Goulburn system is expected to fade 'pretty quickly' he said. The rainfall had reduced the demand for irrigation water, but it was too early to make predictions about final allocations.

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## **From Thieves and Duffers evolve five fruit wines**

*Shepparton News, Goulburn Valley, Victoria, 19 November 2009, p3*

After completing a PhD in agricultural science, Sally Plunkett of Plunkett Orchards at Ardmona, set her skills to launch a range of fruit wines. The result has been the launch last week of a range of five fruit wines under the Thieves and Duffers label. The flavours include pear and honey, apple and passionfruit, mulberry port, apricot port and blueberry wine.

Thieves and Duffers recently won seven awards at the Australian Fruit Wine Awards. The fruit is from their own orchards and the labels have a strong local theme. Dr Plunkett describes the aim to provide a point of difference that would set the wines apart. Thieves and Duffers is from Shepparton, which originally was just a crossing point (over the Goulburn river) for McGuire's punt and had a reputation for horse thieves and cattle duffers. See [www.thievesandduffers.com.au](http://www.thievesandduffers.com.au) .

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## **Growcom defends discussion paper as just that**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [growcom.com.au](http://growcom.com.au), 19 November 2009

Peak horticulture organisation Growcom has reacted angrily to the release of a preliminary industry discussion paper on climate change policy options that was leaked to the media and touted as Growcom policy.

Chief Advocate Rachel Mackenzie said that the discussion paper was prepared several weeks ago and is the first in a series summarising policy options for industry to consider in the face of the federal government's rapidly evolving climate change policy.

From discussions with the Department of Climate Change it is extremely unlikely that agriculture will escape without some policy applying to the sector. Clearly, industry needs to be on the front foot in this issue and that may mean reviewing a range of unpalatable options, she said. For more information visit: [www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au). [Return to Front Page](#)

## **SA company receives grant to pursue plant tissue moisture levels for irrigation application**

*Weekly Times, Victoria, 18 November 2009, p70*

Adelaide company Measurement Engineering Australia (MEA) has won an Aus-Industry grant of \$243,968 to develop an innovative plant based irrigation scheduling sensor. MEA director Andrew Skinner said that the sensor will measure changes in water content in plant tissue making it possible to determine the plants water status and therefore whether water is required and how much. He said that the potential cost savings for irrigators will be significant with water savings plus energy savings from reduced pumping costs.

The sensor will be designed primarily for horticulture crops eg citrus, grapes, fruit, olives and nuts. The project will have technical input from CSIRO scientists and use some of their trial sites. MEA has been producing automatic weather stations, soil moisture monitors and other environmental monitoring systems for 25 years. Earlier this year they launched My Farm, a website that allows farmers to monitor their farms from a home computer. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Growcom discussion paper suggests climate change levy on fertilizer**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au), 17 November 2009

As the Federal Government looks to make farmers accountable for greenhouse emissions, without including agriculture in a carbon trading scheme, Growcom's Rachel Mackenzie said that a fertiliser levy is one of several options being considered. The proposal by Queensland horticulture group Growcom recommends farmers pay about 5 per cent more for fertiliser, with the money raised funding climate change research.

The concept of some kind of levy has been put forward in a very preliminary discussion paper, which is currently out with industry for comment, she said. The plan also suggests an incentive program where growers leading the way in cutting emissions are exempt from the levy. The study goes on to list 15 advantages to the industry adopting the scheme.

But national grower group AUSVEG is against any plan that increases production costs to growers. Chief executive Richard Mulcahy says growers cannot afford a fertiliser levy. [Return to Front Page](#)

## **Consultation a key to progress irrigation upgrades**

*Shepparton News, Goulburn Valley, Victoria, 16 November 2009, p5*

Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project c/e Murray Smith asked irrigators to be patient as they undertake the largest ever irrigation upgrade on a working system. He was responding to farmer concerns that consultations on future irrigation upgrades and water delivery entitlements with individual farmers isn't moving fast enough.

He sought to reassure irrigators that consultation is happening ahead of any capital works. Consultations are currently taking place with irrigators along backbone channels in the five irrigation regions where new automated regulator gates are being installed. The consultation process will spread to spur channels areas in the new year.

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## **Commonwealth Pollination Research Committee appoints Sunraysia apiarist**

*Sunraysia Daily, Mildura, Victoria, 10 November 2009, pp3/9*

Sunraysia bee expert Trevor Monson has been appointed to the recently formed Commonwealth Government Pollination Research and Development Committee. He has 40 years experience as a beekeeper and pollinator. He recently secured more than 40,000 hives to ensure that the failed Timbercorp almond orchards at Robinvale would be pollinated, as almonds are 100 per cent reliant on bees. He said that pollination now accounts for around 75 per cent of the business today with honey production at 25 per cent. His 80 million bees are shifted about 10 times a year in search of nectar and good pollen flows.

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## **New Zealand**

### **US asks for a please explain on Zespri abusing its monopoly**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *3news.co.nz*, 24 November 2009

The US administration has gone to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) asking the New Zealand government for a 'please explain'. The US wants to know why Zespri, the country's single kiwifruit exporter, is being accused of abusing its monopoly by a competitor.

Zespri exports around 2 billion kiwifruit every year from growers throughout New Zealand. But its main rival, Turners and Growers (T&G), is locked out of the export trade.

New Zealand is currently negotiating a free trade agreement with the US, but former Trade Minister Phil Goff said that the US is bordering on hypocrisy by questioning the set-up here. Trade Minister Tim Groser said that the Government will answer the US questions before the next WTO meeting in January. Mr Groser said that Zespri's dominant position is likely to remain as long as the majority of kiwifruit growers continue to support it.

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## **T&G chairman denies collusion with the US**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *stuff.co.nz*, 26 November 2009

Zespri chief executive Lain Jager has written to NZ Trade Minister Tim Groser accusing Guinness Peat Group (GPG) and subsidiary T&G of working with the United States government to get rid of its single desk kiwifruit marketing status.

Mr Gibbs has criticised Zespri control of export markets outside Australasia, and complained that Kiwifruit New Zealand has allocated T&G only 1.3 per cent of the 2009 export fruit for collaborative marketing. Mr Gibbs described the Zespri allegations as 'hysterical nonsense'.

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## **Biosecurity changes don't please horticulture**

*The Orchardist*, October 2009, p2

Andrew Fenton, president, Horticulture NZ, sees changes by Biosecurity NZ are for all of the wrong reasons. Frontline staff numbers are being cut, because of the recession and the drop in trade. New Zealand and Australian passport holders on Trans Tasman flights will no longer have 100 per cent X raying of all baggage, in order to speed up the processing of tourists. If all fails, growers will pay for the future clean up of pest incursions. The good news is that the industry will be able to pay on a time-finance basis!

Searching for good news, he said that penalties for carrying undeclared host material will increase from NZ\$200 to NZ\$400. Horticulture NZ is looking forward to useful dialogue with MAF Biosecurity to protect the interests of all concerned.

In 2007/08, MAFBNZ seized 30,000 items that were fruit fly host material and of those, 9,000 were not declared by passengers.

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## **Tough season for Braeburn and end of season markets**

*The Orchardist*, October 2009, pp18/20

Pipfruit NZ chairman Ian Palmer describes tough end of season market conditions with varieties such as Braeburn, Pink lady and Jazz most affected. Jazz has also been hit by bitter pit, both in the market and in storage in NZ. Grower prices will be closer to NZ\$23 to NZ\$25 per carton, compared to NZ\$30 last season. 70 per cent of Jazz had been sold by the end of September, when normally 90 per cent would be sold.

Pipfruit NZ's Peter Beaven expects the price of Braeburn to be below the cost of production. Although volumes this season were not massive, there were still one million more cartons than last year. Heartland Fruit chairman Ian McCluskie confirmed that Braeburn prices would be anywhere between NZ\$10 and NZ\$20 and certainly below the cost of production.

Ian Palmer said that positive markets included early season prices, particularly in Asia and Taiwan. Royal Gala and Fuji, more suited to the Asian markets, have fared better. He said that the Taiwan protocol is working well.

Peter Beaven said that supplies are up in China and the Middle East has taken four per cent of New Zealand production. Pacific Beauty made NZ\$40 per carton at the beginning of the season, helped by good markets and a favourable exchange rate, but with smaller volumes.

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## **Nelson revenue may be down NZ\$50m, as growers wonder where to next**

*The Orchardist, October 2009, p29*

Nelson pipfruit growers face losses as exchange rates and the global recession combine to flatten returns. Pipfruit NZ chairman Ian Palmer said that apple exports from the region last year earned NZ\$130m, but that this year it could be down by NZ\$50m.

Wai West Horticulture m/d Nick Patterson is in a business that handles 500,000 cartons p.a. "Pipfruit will not make a profit this year." He said that the apple industry needs to make substantial changes to the varietal mix, 'but without cash you are hamstrung'. Cornerstone varieties Royal Gala and Braeburn won't make a profit and the future of Braeburn is questionable. He has 20 per cent plantings of Braeburn, some growers have 40 per cent, he said.

Hamish Rush produces 35,000 export cartons of apples. He made a comfortable profit last year but cannot achieve two years of back to back profits. Restructuring, but to what variety mix, is disillusioning the industry, he said.

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## **UK / Europe**

### **UK crops down, enthusiasm holds, but an ombudsman would help**

*Fresh Produce Journal, 16 October 2009, pp22/24*

A 20 per cent drop in the UK apple crop forecast has not dampened the enthusiasm of UK top fruit producers this season. Good news is that food service giant Compass will source 100 per cent English apples through October and November, made up of 1.5m apples and 240,000 pears. The Gala crop is forecast at 30,000 tonnes, Cox 41,000t and new varieties Rubens, Kanzi, Cameo and Jazz have diversified the UK offer. The pear crop has also been revised down to 30,000t, still up about 7,000t on last year. Conference sales are up by about 20 per cent this year.

John Breach, chairman of the British Independent Fruit Growers Association said that there is a real need for committed support from retailers. He said that their compliance demands cost serious money and coupled with price promotions do not leave enough in the pot for growers to reinvest. He said that a proactive ombudsman is needed to oversee the Growers Supply Code of Practice and the retailers can easily absorb the price of an ombudsman in their overheads.

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## **North America**

### **Washington State Mexican apple growers donate to worthy cause**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: *Yakima-herald.com*, 24 November 2009

The Washington State Mexican Fruit Growers Coalition will donate 23 tons of fresh organic apples this afternoon to Northwest Harvest of Yakima. The donation will take place at 2 p.m. at the hunger-relief agency's distribution center on South 3rd Street. A similar donation took place last week at Northwest Harvest in Issaquah. The Washington State Mexican Fruit Growers Coalition is a group of Latino fruit growers that together farms more than 4,000 acres in the state.

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## South East Asia

### Indonesia requires chemical certification for imports from 19 November

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [foodbizdaily.com](http://foodbizdaily.com), 20 November 2009

Indonesia's agricultural ministry has imposed stricter regulations for fruit and vegetable imports to prevent hazardous chemical residues. Under the new regulation, which will be effective from 19 November 2009, importers are obliged to submit a certificate to declare that imported fruit and vegetables do not contain dangerous chemicals as regulated by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). [Return to Front Page](#)

## South Asia

### First Afghan apple shipment arrives for sale in India

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: [netindian.in](http://netindian.in), 24 November 2009

The first shipment of Afghan apples for sale in the Indian market -- branded the Silk Road Harvest -- has arrived in India, an official press release said here today. The consignment was sent on its way from Kabul on November 11 by the Afghan Minister for Agriculture. The Indian Ambassador in Afghanistan and farmers from the provinces of Kandahar, Ghazni, Paktia and Wardak were present on the occasion.

According to the release, the Afghan farmers will be able to receive in India four times the current low price that they are receiving for their apple exports. USAID experts in the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture have assisted with technical advice and marketing linkages with supermarkets and fruit markets in Delhi.

India is hoping that the Silk Road Harvest was merely the first step in a process of freer and easier movement of goods in the region. This will allow Afghanistan to overcome artificial constraints on the development of its agricultural sector, improve trade and transit facilities, and contribute to the peace and stability of the region and the prosperity of its people. [Return to Front Page](#)

## Netherlands Market Report

Average free on truck (FOT) prices at the Dutch fresh produce market, both exports and domestic, being an average on the price lists of importers/exporters and an indication of European prices:-

Source	Variety	Pack	count/ size	Euros lowest	AU \$	Count /size	Euros Highe st	AU \$
France	G. Delicious	18.0kg	125	12.13	19.75	56	15.25	24.83
France	G. Smith	18.0kg	113 & 120	12.50	20.35	60 100	13.75 13.63	22.39 22.20
France	R. Delicious	18.0kg	110	12.00	19.54	64	14.25	23.20
France	Royal Gala	18.0kg	125 110	11.25 11.50	18.32 18.73	100 80	14.04 13.70	22.86 22.31

Information sourced from [www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), week 48, w/e 27 October 2009

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## Los Angeles Market Report

LA wholesale on 24 November 2009 provided by: Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA.

Source	Variety	Pack	US \$ Min	US\$ Max	AU \$ Min	AU \$ Max
Washington	Red Del	18 kg	15.00	23.00	16.16	24.78
Washington	Golden Del	18 kg	15.00	25.00	16.16	26.93
Washington	Fuji	18 kg	15.00	27.00	16.16	29.09
Washington	G Smith	18 kg	12.00	22.00	12.93	23.70
Washington	Gala	18 kg	15.00	27.00	16.16	29.09
Oregon	Anjou	20 kg	19.00	25.00	20.47	26.93
Washington	Anjou	20 kg	18.00	25.00	19.39	26.93
Oregon	Red Anjou	10 kg	16.00	16.00	17.24	17.24
New Zealand	Taylor's Gold	1 lyr tray	20.00	20.00	21.55	21.55

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## Information About APWN and Disclaimer

This bulletin is prepared weekly to bring you up to date with the latest information about apples and pears with some reference to other commodities. Information is sourced from weekly and monthly publications and the electronic media and is used in the next issue of the bulletin after it is received. All sources are referenced.

The Bulletin is compiled and edited by Apple & Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) from information researched by APAL staff and consultants, in particular Ross Wall. APAL also gratefully acknowledges assistance provided by the Agribusiness Initiative of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

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