

## Newsletter

March 2009

### NEWS FROM THE FARM

#### Weather

Rain, rain, and more rain. The river has been running for 3 weeks and the farms are a picture of green. While the rest of Australia fights horrific floods and fires, we are fortunate to have the best start to our season in years.

#### Citrus

The 2009 citrus season is nearly upon us, and our mandarins are looking very good. Because of the wonderful growing season to date, we have excellent fruit size, and very good quality. Careful thinning of our crop has ensured that we will have an excellent size range, with average sizes exceeding last season's. We anticipate starting our harvest of our early season **Fremont, Nova and Sunburst Mandarins** in mid **April**, with first export shipments ready for despatch in Week 4 of April.

#### Volumes

Final estimations of volume are currently being completed, but we expect to have a 10% increase in mandarins available for both Australian and export sales. We expect our packout to be 90% Ironbark Class 1 brand. All fruit will be volume filled into a plastic lined heavy duty cardboard carton.

#### Fresh, Clean and Green

In keeping with the growing world demand for freshness, our fruit is processed in our own on site facilities. All fruit is treated to ensure maximum shelf life, and is forced air cooled at our coolroom complex as soon as it is packed. Our fruit is grown, harvested and processed under a strict, audited, quality assurance programme (SQF 2000). Our commitment to sustainable agriculture, with the use of an Integrated Pest Management programme, and continuing research and implementation of cleaner production techniques, ensures that our fruit is among the world's "cleanest and greenest".

**With Ironbark Citrus, you find that good flavour and colour, sound fruit with smooth texture, nutrition, and, most of all, freshness, are our priority and our promise.**

#### Orders

Orders are now being taken. We pack to order, as this allows our fruit to be harvested, processed, and despatched when it is at its premium. We have a number of supply programmes in place, and urge you to contact us now at [ironbarkcitrus@bigpond.com](mailto:ironbarkcitrus@bigpond.com), or phone us on + 61 7 4165 4670 with your requirements.

Export orders should be made through our preferred exporters:

**Neil Barker at BGP International** +61 3 9686 3300

**Richard Longbottom & Sam Walker** at Walker & Longbottom +61 39500 1809

**We look forward to hearing from you soon, and to a successful season in 2009**

**Allen & Susan Jenkin**