



Horticulture Australia



**To all cherry growers, agronomists, nursery owners and State agency field staff and managers.**

### ***Workshops on Little Cherry Virus 2***

Cherry Growers Australia, Horticulture Australia Limited and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture are working together using levy funded project to run some workshops on Little Cherry Virus 2 in Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and New south Wales. A world expert on LCV2:

**Dr Kenneth C. Eastwell**

**Plant Pathologist / Director, Clean Plant Center Northwest  
College of Agricultural Human and Natural Resource Sciences  
Washington State University IAREC, Prosser.**

is travelling from the USA from 20 May to 2 June 2014 to present at the Fruit Growers Tasmania conference from 22 to 25 May and take part in workshops in other States as follows:

**The workshops are to be held:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue and time</b>
Tasmania	Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May	Country Club Casino Launceston (Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> ) and Tamar Valley Orchards (Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> ). Contact FGT to register 03 6231 1944 or go to: <a href="http://www.fruitgrowerstas.com.au">http://www.fruitgrowerstas.com.au</a> for conference details and registration forms.
South Australia	Tuesday 27 May 2014	Lenswood Agricultural Centre, Swamp Road , Lenswood from 10 am to 2 pm including lunch, that could include a trip to nearby orchard afterwards
Victoria	Thursday 29 May 2014	Landmark Office, 7 George Street Wandin North from 10am to 2pm including lunch, that could include a trip to nearby orchard afterwards
New South Wales	Friday 30 May 2014	NSW DPI's Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange from 10 am to 2 pm including lunch, that could include a trip to nearby orchard afterwards.

To attend one of the workshops please call the CGA office on 03 6231 1229 or email [ceo@cherrygrowers.org.au](mailto:ceo@cherrygrowers.org.au) for catering purposes by 26 May 2014,

We look forward to seeing you at the workshops

Simon Boughey, CEO CGA

## For your information

### Little Cherry Virus 2

- Little Cherry Virus 2 was detected in a single orchard in Tasmania in January 2014. Subsequent testing found it in 12 other orchards in Tasmania.
- The Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has worked with other agriculture agencies and industry groups to respond to the detection of Little Cherry Virus 2 in Tasmania.
- Part of this work has included thorough tracing and surveillance activities in Tasmania and mainland Australia. Tracing activities have resulted in a detection of the virus in Victoria, but further, indicates that the virus may have entered Australia as early as 1976 in plant material.
- Tracing also indicates that since 1995, a large number of potentially infected plants were distributed out of Victoria to all Australian jurisdictions, with the exception of the Northern Territory.
- The Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests has met to discuss the response to date and the possibility of eradicating Little Cherry Virus 2 from Australia.  
**The committee agreed unanimously that the virus cannot be eradicated, based on the scientific evidence that has been presented. The evidence indicates that:**
  - **it is highly likely that the virus has been in Australia for more than 35 years, and symptoms may take years to express in trees**
  - **the virus symptoms may have, in the past, been attributed to other factors such as water logging or simply lack of performance, and**
  - **because cuttings and grafting are used to propagate these trees, there is a strong possibility that it is wide spread across Australia.**
- Industry and government will work together to develop specific information for growers, including potential impacts on orchards, and the ongoing management of this virus where it already exists. Cherry Growers Australia and Summerfruit Australia will be providing this information and advice to their members.
- Growers and gardeners should always remain vigilant for signs of unusual pests or diseases symptoms in their trees and other plants, and continue to maintain good biosecurity practices. Anything unusual should be reported to their local department responsible for agriculture, or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, which is 1800 084 881.
- There are no food safety risks for consumers eating or handling cherries. The virus affects the overall health of the cherry tree, resulting in fruit that is smaller and lacking flavour.
- The virus can be spread by the movement of propagation material such as root stock or cuttings. It does not spread by moving cherries from infected trees.

- Overseas, the virus is also known to be transmitted by the apple and grape mealybugs. However, these two mealybugs species are not present in Australia.
- Further information about Little Cherry Virus 2 is available on the website of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)

## **Trade**

- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture will provide an update to the International Plant Protection Convention, as it is required to do.
- Australia has notified relevant trading partners and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture will continue to liaise closely with its overseas trading partners to maintain export markets.
- Cherry exporters should contact the office of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture in their region for further advice in regards to export certification. Information will also be available at [www.daff.gov.au](http://www.daff.gov.au).
- Australia exported 2800 tonnes of cherries worth \$36.3 million in 2013/14 season to over 25 markets. Over 80% of exports went into the Asia Region with the top markets being Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Other markets are in the Middle East and Europe.

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

These workshops will also be a chance to meet with Peter Morrison who is now working for the National Development Program a project run by CGA and TIA for the benefit of the Australian cherry industry and your growing region

Peter has been an agronomist in perennial horticulture for 19 years. He has worked on a production orchard for a few years, and before that completed a traineeship and trade certificate on a fruit tree nursery and orchard.

Peter has provided agronomic services, training and extension to the cherry industry both in Australia and internationally.

Peter is developing activities for the States this year. Feedback from states (via a consultative process) has been predominantly focused around export readiness. Program members are now helping with the progression of the biosecurity management plan. Keeping up-to-date with progress on export market protocols will mean that export-ready activities will be relevant. Feedback also included requests for knowledge around fruit quality so the NDP will also explore the latest R&D on quality, especially fruit firmness, to include in activities.

# Kenneth C. Eastwell

Plant Pathologist / Director, Clean Plant Center Northwest  
College of Agricultural Human and Natural Resource Sciences  
WSU – IAREC, Prosser

## EDUCATION

1981 Ph.D., Plant Biochemistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

1974 B.Sc., Biochemistry, First class honours, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Current

50% Plant Pathologist; 50% Director, Clean Plant Center Northwest, August 2011

### Research Responsibilities:

Development and application of methods to detect, identify, and manage diseases caused by virus-like agents in vegetatively propagated perennial crop plants, specifically fruit tree, grapevines and hop plants.

**Administrative Responsibilities:** Provide technical and policy leadership to foundation programs for fruit trees, grapevines and hop plants, and provide leadership for the Washington State University ELISA Testing Laboratory Service Center.

1997-2011 Plant Pathologist, Washington State University- Irrigated Agriculture Research & Extension Center in Prosser, WA (100% research; tenured March 2000; full professor 2008)

NRSP5 clean plant program for fruit trees – Working Director

Northwest Grape Foundation Service - Co-Director since March 2008

WSU-ELISA Testing Laboratory Service Center - Supervisor

Washington Certified (Hop) Planting Stock Program – Manager since August 2000

1988-98 Research Scientist, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC, Canada.

Responsibilities: Development of rapid detection methods for virus-like agents of fruit trees, and their application to disease eradication and quarantine programs. Effect of baculoviruses on sterile insect release control of codling moth. Identification and evaluation of bacteria for biocontrol of plant pathogens. Management of the little cherry disease control program.

1990-96 Adjunct Professor, Department of Plant Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

1991-95 Adjunct Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

1988-89 Visiting Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

1984-88 NSERC University Research Fellow, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada.

1982-84 AHFMR Research Fellow, Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics, University of California, Davis CA.

1981-82 NSERC Research Fellow, Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics, University of California, Davis CA.