



Know-how for Horticulture™



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



## MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2008

# Local experts appointed to help horticulture irrigators with decision making

Citrus Growers South Australia has been contracted to help horticulture irrigators from the Murray access the financial and agronomic information they need to make business decisions in the face of reduced water availability.

Through the project, growers are able to access one-on-one, free, confidential sessions with local Extension Providers who have a background in horticulture or finance. **It is available to all horticulture irrigators, not just citrus growers.**

Kym Thiel, Industry Development Officer with Citrus Growers South Australia, says the service is designed to help growers manage their businesses today, and plan for tomorrow.

“In conditions like this, decisions need to be weighed against their long-term impact as well as the difference they will make right now.

“The Extension Providers have various skills and experiences to draw on, so they can provide a different perspective and help to ensure all the options are considered,” Mr Thiel said.

The Extension Providers for the Riverland are:

- **Craig Swanbury**, who is the general manager of Fruit Doctors and has 15 years' experience as a specialist consultant in pest and disease management and general horticultural management.
- **James Altmann**, who has 20 years' experience as a specialist horticultural consultant, most recently with Fruit Doctors, providing extension advice in all aspects of crop management.
- **Mike Redmond** and **Terese Reeves** of Grow SA - a membership based not-for-profit organisation set up to assist growers in all aspects of their businesses. Mike and Terese will be focusing on servicing the vegetable growers who are supplied from the Murray River.
- **Rural Solutions SA**, a team of experienced consultants providing economic, environmental and social services and solutions to regional, community and industry development.

The project is being run by Horticulture Australia Limited in partnership with industry and supported by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Sunraysia irrigator Tony Martin is chair of the project's Implementation Steering Committee. He says water scarcity is a major issue for irrigated horticulture in the Murray-Darling Basin.

“To ensure the profitability and sustainability of the industry, we need to give horticulture irrigators access to good agronomic and financial information,” Mr Martin said.

“There’s a lot of information out there from a variety of sources, and the Extension Providers have the knowledge and skills to help growers access information that is most relevant to them.

“The project is being run until the end of October across the southern Murray-Darling Basin, in the Goulburn Valley, Swan Hill, Sunraysia and the Riverina as well as South Australia.”

For more information, including contact details in other regions, go to the HAL website, [www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo](http://www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo)

Citrus Growers South Australia is one of the member bodies of Australian Citrus Growers, which aims is to promote the common interests and the financial and environmental sustainability of all Australian citrus growers.

Call 08 8582 1561, email [citido@riverland.net.au](mailto:citido@riverland.net.au) or contact individual Extension Providers to set up an appointment.

- Craig Swanbury, 08 8584 6977, [info@fruitdoctors.com.au](mailto:info@fruitdoctors.com.au)
- James Altmann, 08 85846977, [info@fruitdoctors.com.au](mailto:info@fruitdoctors.com.au)
- Mike Redmond, 08 8282 9200, [mike.redmond@growsa.com.au](mailto:mike.redmond@growsa.com.au)
- Terese Reeves, 08 8282 9200, [terese.reeves@growsa.com.au](mailto:terese.reeves@growsa.com.au)
- Rural Solutions SA, 08 8595 9100, [info@ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au](mailto:info@ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au)

*In partnership with industry and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Horticulture Australia Limited has developed this project “Drought Information Delivery for Horticulture in the Murray Darling Basin” (MDB) as part of the Australian Government’s Irrigation Industries Workshop Programme.*

**Media contact:**

Kaaren Latham

Cox Inall Communications

02 8204 3852 / 0409 809 909

[kaarenl@coxinall.com.au](mailto:kaarenl@coxinall.com.au)