

- **CT08000 - Establishment of Citrus Gall Wasp Parasites in the Murray Valley Region**
Citrus Gall Wasp (CGW) is a native, gall forming wasp, originating from coastal New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (Qld) on the native citrus *Microcitrus australasica*. All cultivated citrus varieties may be susceptible but Rough Lemon and Troyer citrange rootstocks are very susceptible. Grapefruits are the most susceptible cultivated variety followed by lemons and oranges. Mandarins are the least susceptible.
An incursion of CGW was found in the Hollandâ€™s Lake area of the Sunraysia district several years ago. The incursion was first noticed as small 1 to 2 cm galls on lemons and the causal agent was later identified as CGW by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. There is only one insecticide registered for use against CGW and only a small window of opportunity per year for targeting it. The use of this broad spectrum insecticide has the potential to cause major disruption to orchard Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. The three week with-holding period and a 48 hour re-entry period is also likely to disrupt the harvesting of late Navels, some grapefruits and Valencia oranges.
CGW has been controlled successfully in other citrus growing areas by the release of its natural enemies, the native parasitoid wasps *Megastigmus brevivalvus* and *Megastigmus trisulcus*.
The aim of this project was to establish local populations of the parasitic wasps in the Murray Valley Region through mass releases, therefore reducing the incidence of galling and enabling management of this serious pest to be ongoing with minimal inputs. This project also aimed to reduce the reliance on broad spectrum pesticides in the citrus industry, therefore, minimising the chance of creating pest problems by knocking out beneficial insects.
Funded by voluntary contributions with matched funding from the Australian Government.

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