



Monday, September 18, 2006

Dear Grower

The weather conditions have been perfect for the flowering season. Macadamia orchards are heavily laden with flowers, heralding the perfumed beginning of the 2007 crop. If you haven't started already, NOW, is the time we should all be looking closely at the Insect and Pest control schedules that are needed to protect the vulnerable early stages of our next season crop.

Last year the phenomenon of Husk Spot struck fear into the hearts and minds of macadamia growers everywhere. Even if you have harnessed the potential risk that Husk Spot brings, there is always something else on the wind. This year, it would appear the buzz word will be Lacebug.

Lacebugs have been located in macadamia orchards in the Northern Rivers Region for some time. They are highly worthy of mention as the numbers on some properties proved to be the cause of devastating crop losses in 2006. When the Lacebug destruction was brought to our attention, the 2006 harvest season had already begun. Our Technical Consultant, Ian Wilson, made note to pursue this particular topic with interest when the time came.

Ian has begun Insect and Pest Monitoring (IPM) in many orchards in the Northern Rivers Region. He has searched the internet for published information on this particular pest and been disappointed with the search results. Ian has documented his findings in the orchards and outlaid the same in a detailed report, designed to help macadamia growers to identify, control and hopefully protect your crop from infestation and loss to this potentially devastating pest.

I hope that you find this information useful and are able to remain a proud supporter of Pacific Plantations.

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