



South East QLD 22 March 2024

Total attendees: 21 (13 growers, 8 non-growers)

9 businesses representing 51% of total SEQ production

Project update – update on activities and trial planning

Presentation about Phytophthora

Garth Sanewski presented on independent phos acid work

Australian pineapples update:

- A group will be formed to discuss the 'import' issue, invited growers to participate
- Trial at Sam Pike's farm with Lono and Multikraft – less fertiliser was used and plants look the same and will be forced soon
- 73-50 selection: it was observed difference in 12 varieties: One doesn't produce many slips, the other the slips grow down the fruit, there is one that the size of the fruit is 'unreal', one has a different colour, and 2 have too many slips that are hard to harvest the fruit

Tim Wolens (Growcom) gave an update on the Pet meeting

George Russell (Hort Innovation) mentioned that the Biosecurity plan has been approved to go ahead.

Pack shed

- Polsoni Pines were packing beautiful Carnival fruits

Field walk

- Looked at some Carnival plants
- Tony Polsoni said that trying to return a spring crop is a waste of time
- They irrigate the plants on the summer
- They also irrigate before the fumigation, as they observed that soil moisture is essential for the fumigation work effectively
- They recently changed the Telone to chlorophytum and the big change is observed in the return crop and he believes that the extra dollars is really worth
- He apply the fumigation with a very tiny drip line
- The roots are stronger - 'strong roots is the secret of a good crop'

Tony mentioned that he believed that applying N at the pre planting you are throwing away money.

Polsoni has a trial with Tim on soil conditioners (we didn't visit, but Tony presented the results of plant and root sizes)

The trial tested:

- Control -standard practices
- Transformer
- Serenade

-Serenade and Transformer

-Serenade and Hydroloc

So far, transformer stood out, bigger roots and bigger plants. Transformer has an effect on the roots.

Also looked at some Festival plants

Topic for next study group

- weed control – blue tops -what to apply (John Foster)

- how does the controlled atmosphere work- why the pineapple industry don't use it (William Oakes)

Side conversations – Phos acid slips vs tops (dip)

