



“Working for the Grower”



November Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome aboard this season's Avocado monitoring programme. We hope we are providing the service you deserve and we thank you for your custom!

CropCheck Ltd would like to make all their growers aware of the following requirements for this season's mandatory monitoring for Avocado export:

Monitoring Frequency

We have carefully studied AIC protocol for AvoGreen® monitoring frequencies to ensure that growers do not slip out of compliance. CropCheck Ltd also needs to make sure that as an Approved Operator, we retain our compliancy with AvoGreen® protocol, therefore ensuring that you, the grower, are able to safely export your fruit to overseas markets under the AvoGreen® system.

It is with this in mind that we advise our clients that fortnightly monitoring is now required to minimise the risk from six-spotted mite outbreaks in the short term and later, Greenhouse Thrips. AIC recommend 2-3 weekly monitoring for six-spotted mite now and up until Greenhouse Thrip become a threat in early January at which time 2 weekly monitoring is required for Greenhouse Thrip, increasing to weekly if 2% are found and no action is taken.

Although Leafroller monitoring may be left to 3 week intervals, our staff are looking for all pests, so monitoring should continue at fortnightly intervals until the risk of Greenhouse Thrips has reduced. This usually occurs in late March to mid April but last year continued well into May and June.

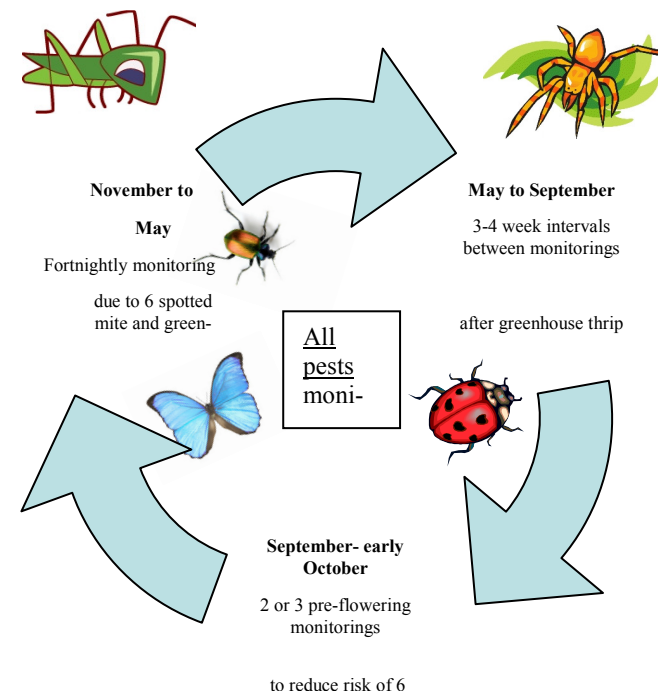
After about May, once Greenhouse Thrip are under control, monitoring frequencies can safely be reduced to 3 weekly or even 4 weekly during the colder months as all pests slow their reproductive cycle. If fruit remain on the tree ready for export, monitoring must continue through the winter.

Obviously, circumstances such as weather, picking and spraying may prevent monitoring exactly every fortnight. On these occasions CropCheck needs to record the reason monitoring was delayed, for auditing purposes and Monitoring must be carried out as soon as possible after the delay.



After a spray, growers may request monitoring is withheld for up to 3 weeks. However, in our experience, 10-14 days is a much safer interval, especially during warmer months when outbreaks can re-occur rapidly. This also allows for inadequate spray coverage, faulty batches of spray, weather effects on spray effectiveness, and so on.

The diagram below is a pictorial view of **recommended monitoring frequencies**:



Recipe Suggestions

We would like to include some interesting recipes in our future newsletters, so are there any cooks out there with some original ideas for the use of avocados?



Pre-harvest monitoring

This season's new set fruit will now require a pre-harvest monitoring within 7 days before harvest to determine the presence of live leaf roller caterpillars or eggs. Your pack house will require this report prior to packing to determine the market status of your fruit.

This is a new requirement introduced this season.

It is therefore vital that you **communicate your intended picking dates to us** for the fruit setting now, as soon as you know. We will enter these dates into our Database so that it is included in your monitoring plan. This will ensure that pre-harvest leaf roller monitoring is carried out on time.

Current Pest Trends

We are noticing large numbers of Six Spotted Mite occurring on some orchards. While there are Beneficials out there, they are often not in high enough numbers to eradicate these pests, so it is advisable if your numbers are climbing, to consider spraying when you can. We will contact you if we are concerned.

Significant leaf drop is also occurring but may be due to several stress factors such as flowering and dry conditions, or phytophthora, even if Six Spotted Mite numbers are not high.

Leafroller are around now, found in the flowers and fresh shoots, and will be moving into the young fruitlets shortly, either around the calyx or between touching new fruit.

We are not seeing many Greenhouse Thrip as yet but with the warm weather we are experiencing currently, it is possible they will make an early appearance. Even so, it is not until you have young fruit that they will cause any damage.

Finally

Please help us to keep you compliant with AvoGreen® by keeping us informed and allowing us to advise you on the frequency of monitoring required for the time of season. Good luck with the season! Kind regards from the staff at CropCheck Ltd.



Meet the CropCheck Team

With each newsletter, we will introduce you to one member of our team.

David Harris

David is the face behind the administration and day to day management of CropCheck; he is the one who makes sure all the systems are in place and compliant with the AvoGreen® program. David has been busy with designing our website and database, both of which will be fully operational within the next month. These are ongoing projects; if you have any questions, input or would love to hear from you by email at: david@cropcheck.co.nz or by phone on 07 544 2201.



David's introduction to horticulture came at an early age, picking lemons for his grandfather, the then chairman of the NZ Citrus Marketing Authority. In the 15 years that Talbot (Reg) Hunt served as chairman, David was dragged along to many meetings to hear him speak, learning about the early days of citrus marketing and processing.

In his working life, he has worked in banking, business management and accounting, computer sales, consultancy and servicing, software design and programming. In the early 80's he was employed for 2 years as Office Manager for Peacocke and Cameron, gaining a lot of experience in orchard development and management. Subsequently David started a computer business and later employed Phil Radford, together designing the original KiwiPlus software for Kiwifruit post-harvest facilities and grower pools.

In his spare time, when he rarely has some, David is a keen Cricket watcher and is still a registered Umpire, enjoys most Motorsports especially Speedway and Formula One, loves aircraft, is a keen Photographer and enjoys fishing.

Drawing from this experience, he is a huge asset to the company. He is available at the office should you have any questions for him and would love to talk to you from midday onwards.



ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Rains gone
spring is here
flowers are out
sun is shining
bees are buzzing
Bugs are hiding



(Watch for another verse in the next newsletter)

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