



“Working for the Grower”



March Newsletter

Welcome

Happy New Year! We trust you have had an enjoyable summer so far, despite the heat.

We have been very busy adding clients to our grower list these last few months, so welcome to those who are new to us! We know we will give you the best service available in the crop-monitoring business.



Spray safety

Recently, a few disturbing incidents have occurred in orchards regarding sprays.

We would like to remind growers that all immediate neighbours, and possibly those further afield downwind, must be notified of your intended sprays. You must state approximately when they are to occur and what is being sprayed. Remember some individuals are more sensitive to the effects of sprays than others! E.g. babies, those with illness or immune deficiency, etc.

Although there are plenty of target-specific sprays available, many choose to continue to use Organophosphates and broad-spectrum sprays with known toxicity to humans due to their rapid action and low cost. However, we know little about the cumulative effects of the newer, ‘softer’ sprays, so all spray types should be treated with respect.

Additionally, please inform your CropCheck representative of intended weed spraying if this is occurring while they are monitoring. Some of us don't take kindly to having Round Up rubbed on our legs from wet weeds around trees, or absorbed through our boots.

We are aware that some orchardists are concerned about the time delay taken from a monitor to a spray being applied. There is discussion underway regarding this issue and we hope something can be resolved to the advantage of everyone.



Green House Thrip (GHT) alert

GHT are increasing rapidly in the warm conditions. With an adult laying an egg every 1-2 days over a period of 5 weeks, and eggs maturing to adults within 16 days, you can see how numbers explode!

When a monitoring from the ground shows 2% GHT, please don't wait too long getting a spray on if you want to avoid too much fruit damage. If you are unsure about whether 1 GHT (=2%) should trigger a spray, at least monitor again a week later to see if numbers are creeping up higher. Our monitors will phone you 1 week after finding GHT to see whether you have sprayed, or to offer you another check. Please be happy that they have a concern for your crop. They are busy people trying to do the best for the growers they service.

Leafroller, Six Spotted Mite and Scale

Leafroller numbers are still present, though in low numbers if the block has been sprayed. At present the leafroller will be between the young fruit or where a leaf is touching a fruit.



Six Spotted Mite are slowly increasing again as the night time temperatures start to drop and the trees start to flower again with Autumn flowering. The numbers should not be as bad as spring time, but growers should be aware of their increase, particularly if your block was badly affected earlier.

Scale have been seen on old fruit on some blocks. Soon crawlers will be hatching and infecting young fruit.

PSA

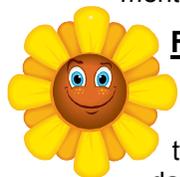
Some growers have been asking our staff to spray their boots before entering their orchards. CropCheck has made the decision to supply our staff with spray bottles and Dettol disinfectant solution which they will carry in their cars for use on exiting kiwifruit orchards. Monitors will keep as far from kiwifruit blocks as possible.

Monitoring Reports

There have been a couple of questions about reports, which it may be good to clarify.

- Recording Greenhouse Trip—there has been a request to note thrip adults and juveniles, as it is easier to kill juveniles. We will be doing this as from Monday 7th March.
- The thrip will be recorded with the adults and juveniles in separate columns and a combined percentage. Please see the diagram on the right.
- We record leafroller found on fruit first in the leafroller percentage column. Any additional leafroller found on leaves or fruit not needed for the calculation, is recorded in the comments.

Greenhouse	
Thrip	
A	J
4	6
20%	
2%	
YES	



Flower Growers

Not much has changed since our last newsletter, except to say there are still two-spot about and now with the hot damp weather, there is the additional fungal problems. The fun of growing flowers!



Citrus Growers

Kelly's Citrus Thrip numbers are now disappearing, with a rise in **Flower Moth** and **Scale** numbers.

Avocado Recipe

Did you know that a popular drink in Brazil is an avocado smoothie? Has anyone tried making an avocado smoothie? What did you use? On my search, I found recipes for smoothie with sweetened condensed milk and avocado, or bananas, spices such as cardoman, strawberries and avocado. I seem to remember our Brazilian students making us a smoothie something like the latter recipe. So please try some ideas and get back to me.



Meet the CropCheck Team

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



Jojette Drost

Jojette started monitoring avocados in 2001, shortly after the inception of the voluntary AvoGreen program, seeing the development and growth of the program over the last 10 years to the program we now have.

Jojette (pronounced Yoyette) attended Waikato University, gaining a Bachelor of Science specialising in Botany in 1980. She went onto work for the D.S.I.R. (now Plant & Food) in Te Puke as a Science Technician in kiwifruit, macadamia, citrus and avocado varieties, D.S.I.R. Wellington on a pilot project to report to the Wellington Regional Council on the state of their native plant and animal resources around the region, the National Museum in the Ornithology department, which included combing the Karamea caves for sub-fossil bird bones, catching and weighing Westland Black Petrels at 2am as they landed at nest sites on cliffs, and diving in Northland for the fish department collecting fish samples. There is a rumour that she has a small fish named after her! Then she went onto Levin Hort Research as Science Technician researching kiwifruit and apples. As if this life wasn't exciting enough, she then became a mother to 3 girls, 2 of whom are now at university. One daughter is married and living in Australia with a lovely grandson, who Jo would love to see more of.



While her girls were at school she became involved as a Brownie and Guide Leader, Manager for various school sports teams, and a member of the Katikati Resource Centre Committee.

Jojette is married to Ross who she's known for 30 years after meeting at university. She loves sailing and diving, tramping and dancing. Her other tasks at present include running their 140 tree avocado orchard and teaching piano and keyboards both from home and at the local schools,



ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Friendly wasps
Chasing bugs
Leafrollers hiding
Thrips multiplying
Sticky warm days
And cooler nights



(Watch for another verse in the next newsletter)

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