



“Working for the Grower”



**Newsletter
August 2015**

From the Office

Rolls of insulation are slowly, and finally, being pulled from the rafters in the office and placed in the wall framing. This has been a necessity to maintain the little warmth we can create in the office on cold winter days and nights.

We look forward to finishing the walls and ceiling before the winter ends! It will also help us to keep cooler in the summer.

Marise has decided to depart for more exciting adventures and we are currently interviewing prospective Office Assistants. Having Marise away a bit recently has shown us we can't cope without someone here to help us.

Owner/Operator Training



We are running regular courses for Owner Operator Refresher and Full training. Please contact the office to register your interest in joining one of our courses if you wish to gain or maintain Owner Operator certification.



There are application forms and Eye-sight Tests that need to be completed before you can monitor, as well as undergoing the training course. We have the forms available in our training packs or you can download them from the AIC website. You can click on the AvoGreen logo on our website to go straight to AIC.

CropCheck Website

Along with our web developer, we have given our website a major make-over recently. There are still some changes to be completed, which we plan to do over the next month or so.

KiwiGreen Monitoring



We are now offering KiwiGreen monitoring as an independent operator. We have been stunned at the lack of training given to KiwiGreen monitors and know we can offer a much better service with trained staff. Phone the office to enquire.

Leafroller Levels

Leafroller have been found between fruit on a few occasions lately, now that insecticides are not being applied often. These will be more of an urgent problem after new fruit have set, but it is wise to monitor for them before flowering, in case a spray is needed.



A change has been made to the AvoGreen Protocol, dropping the threshold on Leafroller found on shoots from 4% to 2%, effective immediately

Six-spotted mite

Six Spotted mites and mite eggs are being found in quite high numbers in a few blocks now. We have already seen leaf-drop where control wasn't early enough. We expect further problems during flowering when the trees are under stress. Please be on the watch for mite numbers climbing and act well before flowering to control mites. Some sprays are long acting, and it would be wise to wait 3 weeks after spraying before monitoring again to see the effects.

Greenhouse Thrip

Finally, the cold is having a beneficial effect on thrip numbers. Any thrip found have been mostly juvenile, but if they are in numbers, there will be adults. Don't rely on the cold to kill them all, they can still find sheltered fruit to breed on.

Scale

More scale has been found recently, than for the last few years, perhaps due to softer sprays. If you are over the threshold, perhaps the addition of oil to your next insecticide would help to smother the scale. The crawlers will now be mobile and spreading the population.



Not that type of scale!!



We accept Farmlands Card payments. Please email us your Shareholder Number and Shareholder Name.

Recipe

For Fred from Jojette:



ROAST PUMKIN AND CARROT SOUP

I thought I was sick of pumpkin soup until I tasted this simple one.

Roast 1/2 pumpkin and 4 carrots



Blend with 1.5l chicken stock

Add 1/2 tsp cayenne, 2 tsp ground coriander, 1 clove crushed garlic, salt and pepper to taste.

Enjoy with garlic bread.

Cathy's recipe is like the one above, except you roast the Pumpkin and Carrots, sauté;

2 onions, 2 cloves of garlic,

1tsp cumin 1tbsp mustard seed

1tsp turmeric chili to taste

Add 4-6 cups of water and vegetable stock (approx 2 tsp), roast pumpkin and carrots, simmer till well cooked, mash and enjoy with chopped coriander.

Frozen Avocado Guacamole

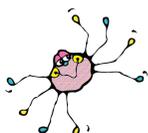


I have frozen whole avocados when I had too many ripe at once.

Thaw 2 frozen avocados. Cut open and spoon flesh into a bowl.

Mash with 1 tsp mustard, and 2 tbsp aioli or mayonnaise.

Serve with corn chips.



Citrus

Scale are now on the move in citrus and coming up in late October/November, White Fly adults will be making an appearance.

AvoGreen Compliance—Calendars

Monitoring Plan Calendars for 2015/2016 are out this week and include a small change as some clients have been confused about the need to state their agreement about monitoring frequency. Please tick one of the boxes on the right hand side, to indicate the frequency you want, fill in the rest of the form (in the green boxes) and return to the office.



This is an **AvoGreen requirement upon which your AvoGreen compliance depends**. If you do not return the Calendar you may not be able to export your fruit, as we need to have that paperwork in place for AIC and the auditors.

If you have had any changes to your avocado blocks, contacts, or hazards we will need to get you to fill out a new schedule (the back part of your contract). Please inform us of any changes to your Schedule, by email or letter, (include it with your Monitoring Plan Calendar), and we will be back in contact with you about it.



Please help us by getting Calendars back to us by 1st September 2015. It takes a significant amount of our time and resources each year to chase up the return of these calendars; you can email or mail them to us, or give it to the monitor when they visit.

New Staff

Tracey Sellars (currently undergoing training) is our new monitor in the Katikati North to Athenree Area. Tracey will take on some of Jojette's monitoring workload, especially with the extra work pressure of Owner Operator Refresher training. We are hoping that this will be our last staff change for some time.

Welcome to the team Tracey, we know you are going to enjoy being part of our family. And we won't scare you off just yet by writing about you; that will come in our next newsletter.

ENQUIRE NOW



Monitoring: *Avocado*
Kiwifruit
Flowers
Citrus
Other Crops
AvoGreen Training
Soil Testing & Leaf Tests

Don't forget to sign and return your Monitoring Plan Calendar!

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