

Tamarillo Growers

A recent discussion with a Tamarillo grower revealed that his trees had lost almost all their leaves due to what sounded like 2 spotted mite. The leaves went 'yellow' and 'many fell off'. To avoid such a set back, regular pest monitoring is recommended.



Now is the time to be starting monitoring for Psyllid's. Monitoring every 2-3 weeks until they appear, then monthly to check effectiveness of your sprays could well prove to be cost effective for you.

Citrus Growers

Some early Kelly's Citrus thrip could be starting now, so it is time to step up monitoring for lemon growers.

Flower Growers

Viburnum Opulus picking will be in full swing now. Insects to be on the lookout for are Aphid, White Fly and there may be some early Two Spotted mite.

Recipe

This recipe is so easy, you'll wonder why everyone doesn't know about it already. Its also mind-blowingly delicious, full of anti-oxidants and good oils. Not what you'd expect from chocolate mousse!

Chocolate Avocado Mousse

Serves 2-4 people.



Blend together the following ingredients:

Flesh of 2 ripe avocados
1 tablespoon vanilla essence
1/4 cup maple syrup
1/2 cup cocoa

Serving suggestion: fill shot glasses and top with blueberries, with a teaspoon to eat it with.

The original recipe said 1 cup of cocoa, but that makes it extremely rich. Try it out yourself.



From the Directors

Many growers will have taken the opportunity during an 'off' year to undertake aggressive pruning of larger trees, while this may have removed a large portion of leaf, the remaining limbs should have been given more light and if flowering, should produce good numbers of larger fruit. This fruit will be a good earner if pests are controlled.

Make sure you are monitoring through flowering to keep an eye on Six spotted mite levels and to predict when a Leafroller spray may be necessary. AvoGreen allows one Leafroller spray after flowering and before end of January without a monitoring. However, with Six Spotted mite becoming an increasing problem, monitoring will give better information towards your spray choice.

The Avocado Industry exporters strongly recommend maintaining copper sprays, particularly after an 'off' year when growers may have saved on sprays. If you are about to spray copper, why not phone us to monitor first to see what else may need to be added to the mix.

In line with the new protocol, (see over), we have changed the report, as you will have noticed, to show how many fruit and shoot sites are being checked on your trees. The AvoGreen protocol states that the threshold allowing spraying for Leafroller, must be firstly based on fruit (if there is sufficient fruit) or based on shoots if there are insufficient fruit sites. We are suggesting that 15 or less fruit sites is insufficient to give a good picture. Therefore as there are few fruit on most orchards at the moment, staff have been asked to monitor 10 shoot sites per tree plus whatever fruit sites can be found. Not only does this give a good picture of what is happening on the trees, it also allows for the fact the tiny Leafroller are most likely to be in the new shoots and flowers over the next couple of months. Leafroller eggrafts are currently being found on monitoring rounds, confirming that Leafroller moths are active at the moment.

In conclusion, if your report shows you are over threshold on either fruit sites (if there are over 15 fruit sites with 2% or greater) or on shoot sites (with 6% or greater), you are at liberty to spray. But please be careful of the bees.



ENQUIRE NOW



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

Jokes:

At New York's Kennedy airport a school teacher was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a square, a slide ruler, and a calculator. The Attorney General believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math instruction. "Al-gebra is a very fearsome cult indeed", the Attorney General said. "They consist of quite shadowy figures, with names like 'X' and 'Y', and we know they belong to a common denominator and are part of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. "As Isosceles used to say, there are three sides to every triangle."



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“Working for the Grower”



Avocado tree in flower in 2010. Photo supplied by JustShootIT Photographics.

Newsletter

October 2012

Training in AvoGreen

If you are considering training to become an Owner Operator, or would like a refresher, Cathy and Jojette are running courses periodically, and can fit you in.

We are known for our friendly, thorough training, and can offer on-going support as you become more confident on your own. Let us know as soon as you can by calling our cell phones, the office, or registering under training on our website.

Alternatively, if you are an Owner Operator and are planning to be away, are affected by illness or an accident, we can come in and monitor for you while you are away.

Pollination Trials



Recently at the AIC Grower Forums, there was a very interesting talk given by Dr David Pattermore from Plant & Food Research, about insects and pollination. Cathy had the opportunity to speak to him after the Forum about the use of infra-red camera's to record insect activity at night during flowering. He is interested in putting some camera's in orchard, so if you would be willing to help with some scientific research, please contact Cathy at the office, on her cellphone or by email cathy@cropcheck.co.nz.



Insect Life - Six Spotted Mite

These are on the rise again, even after sprays have eliminated them. It will be the stress of flowering coupled with the warmer temperatures that have created the conditions for such a rise in numbers.

Now that flowering is imminent, make sure you keep an eye on numbers of mites throughout flowering (at least every 3 weeks). If trees are badly infested, an evening spray for mites, when flowers have closed and bees are in the hive, may be required.

Greenhouse Thrip

Winter has not chased these bugs away completely. Warmer conditions have encouraged them to remain on fruit that is not yet harvested, and now we are seeing juvenile greenhouse thrip.

Leafroller

Eggrfts and small Leafroller are common in orchards now; new shoots are particularly attractive to them.



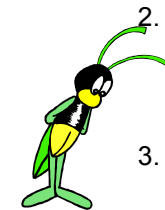
Remember, if you are still to pick, your packhouse will want to know your Leafroller numbers. It is a requirement under AvoGreen, that a pre-harvest monitor is done preferably within a week, but certainly within 2 weeks of each export harvest.

New Leafroller protocol under AvoGreen



To clarify to growers who have been questioning the changes.

1. When there are enough fruit, a monitor should use fruit only, to assess whether the threshold for Leafroller has been reached. Up to 50 fruit sites are inspected. The threshold is 2%.
2. If there are not enough fruit, then the threshold is based on Leafroller found on growing shoots. 100 shoot sites must be inspected in this case. The threshold is 6%.
3. If fruit is all above reaching height for the monitor, a grower may use his/her own hydalada to bring a Leafroller to the monitor. This Leafroller may be recorded in the monitoring round.
4. A monitoring round is only good for 28 days. After that, a new monitoring, with threshold levels met, is required to justify a spray.
5. If back-to-back spraying for greenhouse thrip, the second spray must be within 21 days of the first, otherwise another monitoring is required.



The difference in Leafroller thresholds reflects the preference of caterpillars to feed on new growth, particularly at this time of year when shoots are full of fresh leaves. It is also higher for Leafroller found on shoots, because the fruit are what we try to protect. Shoots can sustain some damage before it affects the growth of the tree. There is no correlation found between the number of Leafroller found on the shoots to that found on fruit.

Mirid

This insect appears each year during flowering and can be seen in large numbers. There are many sub-species, which we usually observe sucking the plant, or maybe feeding on other insects. Cathy observed one a few years ago, feeding on a Leafroller. The scientists have no idea whether they help or hinder pollination; some research was undertaken a number of years ago, but that research was not conclusive. More research is needed.