



“Working for the Grower”



Newsletter

August 2011

Welcome

Have you been enjoying the cold weather? It is refreshing after the very long hot summer. And nice to see some of the Thrip dying off with the cold, unfortunately not all of them.



Approaching Harvest and Beyond

Many growers are now carrying out maturity testing on their fruit which are nearly ready for an export pick. Packhouses ask that you contact them about choices of spray if you are considering spraying so close to harvest. Withholding periods are at least 21 days for most sprays, so you may wish to wait until after harvest .

Pest Pressure

Currently our monitors are finding a **distinct rise in the numbers of Six-spotted Mite** which will become a problem during flowering if not attended to, particularly with the trees already under load from the heavy crop. We urge growers to begin monitoring early in the spring, before the end of August and again in September, so that action (possibly 2 sprays) can be taken before flowering. A large population of Six-spotted Mite combined with the stress of flowering will lead to **defoliation**. It takes a long time for trees to recover!

Leafroller have still been active over the autumn. Although the lower temperatures at present will slow their reproduction, caterpillars will still survive and get fatter over winter. We have recently seen many hatched Leafroller egg rafts and new caterpillars choosing to chew around the stem end of fruit as well as between fruit and on the leaves.

Once conditions are dry enough to spray, these should be dealt with if they are over the 2% threshold, to avoid further damage to your export pack out.

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Greenhouse Thrip have been a terrible scourge over summer and are mostly under control now. However, like Leafroller, they continue to feed and reproduce slowly through winter.

With the huge pest pressure we have had over the past summer, there may be a carry-over of pests into the next season which is worth knocking down in preparation for the following fruit set. This will be so particularly for Six-spotted Mite and Greenhouse Thrip. But remember you can only justify one ‘Clean up’ spray without a monitor, between the end of flowering and the end of January. In the past, you could do a clean-up spray over winter without a monitor, that is no longer the case, so please contact us for a monitor first if you are considering spraying before flowering.



Pre-harvest Monitoring

It is considered Best Practice to have a pre-harvest monitor for Leafroller. If you or your pack house wishes to do a Pre-harvest Monitor, please let your CropCheck Ltd representative know when harvesting will occur so that we can time our visit for you. The best time for a pre-harvest monitor is within 7 days before harvest so that the packhouse gains a current picture of the Leafroller caterpillar and egg raft percentages.



New Season Monitoring

We will be phoning growers over the next few weeks to talk about monitoring through to the next fruit set and beyond (September 2011 – end of August 2012).

It may follow that after such a good fruit set this season, trees could have an off year. We are aware that monitoring frequency may be reduced because of economics, but be mindful that even a small volume of fruit will be worth looking after in a ‘Light Year’, as prices reflect the lack of supply, even for local market. So, greater fruit quality from less pest pressure is often more important in a light year.

We look forward to continuing our service to growers, and welcome your feed back at any time.

Grower Contract Schedules

Unfortunately it is the time of year when we are setting up reports etc for the next season, so to this end, we have a letter coming out to all growers that are registered for monitoring. There will be a report with the letter which has all the information we hold in our database about you. Please read, make any changes, sign and return one copy to us in the envelope enclosed (which is not supplied just for returning your cheques).

Flower Growers

It is a quiet time in the flower growing world. Enjoy your time of rest in the warm sun.



Citrus Growers

August is the month for scale crawlers to be running.

Avocado Recipe

This is a Brazilian salad (sorry I don't know the name) which takes a little while to prepare, but is so worth the effort.



Brazilian Chicken Salad

1 cooked chicken (roisserie) - break meat up into small pieces

Chop and add to shredded chicken:

1-2 spring onions 1/2—1 capsicum

In a kitchen whiz mix:

1/2 cup Mayonnaise 1 avocado

Peel, grate, wash and pat dry on a paper towel:

2-3 potatoes

Deep fry grated potato till golden brown and crispy. Fold into chicken mixture with mayonnaise and avocado. Serve with a side salad or as a filling in a bread roll or in place of asparagus in an asparagus roll. Very yummy!

Website

Our website is going through a metamorphosis. Most pages have been updated, but there are some new pages for Owner Operators, Soil Testing, Meet the Team & Articles, that still have information to be added. We encourage you to visit our website (www.cropcheck.co.nz) regularly to check out what we have added. We also welcome any suggestions for additional relevant content that we might be able to add.

Meet the CropCheck Team

With each newsletter, we have been introducing you to a different member of our team, and again this month, we would like to introduce another team member.



Cathy Harris

Cathy has been avoiding writing this profile as she doesn't like drawing attention to herself, but here goes. She grew up on a hill country sheep farm inland from Taihape, on a farm that will probably be covered in snow right now. After living in Northland for a short while, she moved to Tauranga, eventually ending up on an orchard with her parents.

After forays into nursing, assisting David with his Computer Consultancy business and teaching, she has come full circle and is back living on a lifestyle property on the corner of a farm in Ohauiti, with husband David, and spending her time (when not looking at the view) as a director of CropCheck. Her other occupation is teaching singing in secondary schools; quite the musical team with Jojette's musical skills.

After many years of study Cathy has recently graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Music. Though much of her study was in music, the drama, speech and English writing papers have helped a lot with her roll in CropCheck.

Cathy works closely with Jojette in training and client liaison. She is also responsible for some of the design and production of the reports, newsletters and communications you will receive from the office with the help of Irene, David and Jojette.



The Move is Over . . .

We have made it and are enjoying the lovely rural views and sounds from our new office. Those that have been for a visit don't want to leave. So if you are round our way, please call in. We are at R424 Ohauiti Road.

ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Winter chills
Thrip away
Confused flowering,
early, late?
Six spot have come
out to play



(You can check out the full poem on the Newsletter page of our website.)

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