



“Working for the Grower”



Leafroller's

Newsletter October 2015

From the Office

Marise has finished up in the office now and is away helping out at a children's' camp. She is still not sure what she will do long-term, but we know she will have fun on her future adventures.

A friend of Marise's, Kelsie Jordan, has started in the office and is trying to get her head around all the work, going home with her head spinning after 3-4 hours. Meeting the staff last week and seeing where some of the orchards are, has helped Kelsie to start to understand how CropCheck works and a visit to an orchard in the next week will help her to understand AvoGreen.

We have a builder starting in the next few days, who will be helping us complete the office building. We can't wait to have it all finished. Cathy now has the task of choosing colours.

Owner/Operator Training



If you need Owner/Operator Refresher training, we have a course planned for **9th October** in Katikati. We will be running more courses over the coming weeks; contact Jojette or Cathy to register.

There are some significant changes to the AvoGreen protocol with a new manual just released recently. As an Owner/Operator, you need to log onto the AIC website and have a read. There is also a new recording sheet available in the manual. It is not yet on the AIC website to download, but you can contact Cathy if you would like a copy. Or we can print some and send them to you for a small fee.

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.

Bee Care

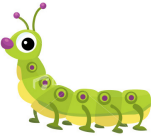
Remember to be careful of the bees if you have to spray. Use bee-safe sprays or avoid spraying.



Leafroller Levels

Tiny Leafroller are being found now in the flower buds. These will move to chewing the young fruitlets after fruitset. It is looking like there will be a heavy crop this year, so this is a reason to be more vigilant with the Leafroller as there will be plenty of places for them to hide between fruit,

Six-spotted mite



We have seen some blocks with severe mite problems this year and there are some orchards where the numbers are climbing now with the flowering starting. These growers need to be taking action now before the bees come in as it is a long time until any sprays can be applied again, and very distressing seeing the leaves dropping off trees.

It appears many growers have been more aware this year of the affects of mites, and have taken action if needed earlier than they would have previously. Therefore we are not seeing quite the same severity of mites as in the past 3—5 years.

Greenhouse Thrip

There are still a few Thrips on the occasional fruit, but as these are on older fruit, they are not doing much damage. With the likelihood of a heavy crop this year, there is likely to be high numbers of Thrips, so monitoring from mid January will be crucial to minimise damage.

Scale

Scale will be hatching now, so it is a good time to be on the watch-out for them.

Payments

We accept Farmlands Card payments. Please email us your Shareholder Number and Shareholder Name. We had a number of new Farmlands Card holders contact us in the last 2 months. This payment method is helpful for all. If you pay by direct debit, please remember to enter your PPIN under Code. We can then identify you and put your payment against the correct account. When paying by cheque, please send the slip off the bottom of the invoice.



Recipe

It will be rhubarb time soon. For those of you that like a nice moist cake, here is a treat.

Rhubarb Sour Cream Cake

5 tablespoons butter

1 & 1/2 cups of soft brown sugar (is quite sweet, so you may want to add a bit less)

Cream together, then add

2 eggs

Beat then add

280 grams sour cream 2 tsp cinnamon

Vanilla 1 lemon—juice and rind

3 small cups of flour

Fold in, then add

1 tsp Baking Soda dissolved in a splash of milk

Stir into mixture, then add

5 stalks of rhubarb chopped into cubes.

Pour into lined tin, sprinkle with soft brown sugar and bake 1 1/4 hours at 160—180 c being careful not to burn the sugar on top. Serve hot with icecream or cold with yoghurt or crème fraiche.

Citrus

Kelly's Citrus thrip are about to make an appearance and Citrus Whitefly will be hatching from now on. With all the wet weather, it is wise to be watching for Botrytis and Scab.

Flowers

The Viburnum season is well under way, with many packhouses working long hours to get the flowers picked and packed. Bugs to be aware of are aphid, white fly and 2 spotted mites will appear as the weather gets warmer. Also, don't forget to look for scale which have been hatching recently.



AvoGreen Compliance—Calendars

Thank you everyone who has returned their Calendars. We have had a good return rate so far, mostly filled in correctly. For growers that have not returned their Calendar, will automatically be put onto 3 weekly monitoring now. If you want less monitoring, then please return your Calendar so we have proof of your wishes. The Calendar is needed for AvoGreen Audit, which will be in November/December.

Health & Safety

This is a topic that has been in the news a lot lately, with new Health and Safety regulations coming into force on 1 April 2016. We are doing lots of reading, trying to get our heads around all the changes.

We have regular H&S training with our staff, where we look at the hazards that are always found on orchards. Some major hazards we are encountering at the moment are:

- ☛ Long grass—this hides holes and branches which can cause our staff to fall or trip. (Cathy tripped over some prunings hidden in long grass this week, resulting in some nasty bruises).
- ☛ Prunings—prunings around or between trees are very difficult to walk around, making it hard to get near or past some trees.
- ☛ Weed sprays—this is a major hazard for our staff, especially as the weather gets warmer and our staff are wearing shorts and sneakers or short boots. Many times our staff do not discover that there has been weed-spray applied unless they come across the grower spraying. Please let our staff know if you are spraying, as they are often not able to go home and have a shower if they are even aware they have been exposed. Weed-sprays are a hazardous product and need to be treated as such.
- ☛ Bees— please keep our staff informed of bee movements on and off your property.



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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