



***“Working for the Grower”***



# Newsletter

October 2011

## Welcome

Well we are into the Spring storms now with weather warming up. Fortunately most Thrips have gone, but now we have Six Spotted Mite and Leafroller. Wouldn't it be lovely if you didn't have to worry about what insects are out there? Unfortunately the reality is that if you are exporting, you need to be aware of what insects are in your orchards.



## Pre-Harvest Monitoring—extremely important

In the last 2 weeks, pre-harvest monitoring has been forced on everyone by overseas markets particularly the Australian market which is demanding **NO** Leafroller. If any are detected on the fruit at Pre-Clearance Inspections, the entire shipment of fruit will be fumigated with Methyl Bromide, which causes the fruit to ripen early, meaning the container load must be air-freighted at a much higher cost to everyone.

So if your small number of trays in that shipment have Leafroller on them, all the other growers will have to pay for your fruit to be fumigated, meaning there will be some very unhappy growers out there.

Japan and Korea may also demand fruit with no scale this season. This is similar to what they demanded some years ago.

What do you need to do? Most packhouses are now requiring the growers to have had a recent monitoring report (within 2 weeks of picking) showing NO Leafroller. If no Leafroller are found, no action will be required, but if you do have Leafroller, you will be required to spray (which is different from what was previously accepted practice).

If you are not happy about spraying, please speak to your packhouse or Chemical Rep, there are some new safe products on the market which you may be happy about using.



## Harvesting

Many growers are underway with this season's harvest. If you haven't had notice of a picking time from your packhouse, it may be worth giving your rep a call. There may be GAP compliance requirements for you to arrange prior to picking.

## Owner-Operators

We are running refresher training for those owner-operators who would like a brush-up. There is a small cost of \$45 +GST. Phone Cathy or Jojette to register.

## On-going Monitoring

As stated in the August Newsletter, growers should remain vigilant for Six-spotted Mite over flowering. High numbers over this tree stress period can cause defoliation and reduced fruit set.

Leafroller numbers will begin to increase with warmer weather, moving to the new shoots and flowers until new fruit are set.

Once flowering is over, growers may spray one clean-up spray without a pest monitoring before the end of January. However, monitoring is still recommended to determine the best timing of a spray and what you are spraying for.

If Scale were found in your recent pack out, then the clean-up spray could take this into account also.

Recommendations on what to spray can be obtained from your packhouse rep, or your spray contractor. Please do not ask your CropCheck Ltd representative, as their training does not cover sprays.

## Review of Avogreen

Cathy and Jojette are looking forward to meeting with AIC and other Avogreen representatives in the near future to discuss the many submissions put to AIC to improve the monitoring systems both for Owner Operators and accredited Operators such as CropCheck Ltd.



If you have any issues you would like us to air at this meeting please phone Cathy or Jojette as soon as possible.

## Schedules

Contract Schedules have been posted to all growers and should have been returned by now. Remember to contact us if anything changes in your contact details, or orchard hazards after filling this in.

## Monitoring Plans

These were sent out recently with the Contract Schedules. Again, please feel free to discuss the monitoring frequencies. If there is need for a dramatic change to the agreed Monitoring Plan, we will need a written request from you or you may risk losing Avogreen compliance.

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## Field-days

Over the last couple of months, Jojette, Cathy and Richard have been busy attending various industry meetings, conferences and field-days. We have come away with a lot of new information and met some interesting people in the Avocado, Kiwifruit and Tamarillo industries.

Cathy and Richard both attended KVH meetings, there was such a sadness there. We came away feeling so sorry for growers, many in a very serious situation.

In contrast, the Avocado growers are in a very buoyant mood, looking forward to a great packout and return.

Cathy's visit to the Tamarillo Field-day was very interesting. She came away thinking about how we could help the growers to control the infestations of Psylids. She suggests monitoring now 3 weekly until the Psylid are found, then coming back monthly to check that your spray program is working.

## Flower Growers

Viburnum will be in full harvest now and hydrangeas are growing well and will start to bud up shortly. Watch for aphid in the new shoots.



## Citrus Growers

Flowering should be under way now, time to be on the watch for Kelly's Citrus Thrip.

## Tamarillo Growers

As mentioned above, we are looking at monitoring Tamarillo's. We have not finalised the cost yet, but it will probably be charged either on an hourly basis or a per block basis as we do with flowers or citrus. If you are interested, please phone Cathy.

## Avocado Recipe



Cathy and David had a Brazilian student years ago that loved Avocado shakes. I have searched for a good recipe and found this one.

### **Avocado Shake**

- 1 cup avocado peeled and pitted
  - 2 cups ice
  - 1/2 cup fat-free sweetened condensed milk
  - 1/2 to 1 cup cold non-fat milk
- Put all ingredients into blender and mix. Enjoy.

(<http://whatscookingamerica.net/Beverage/AvocadoShake.htm>)

## Meet the CropCheck Team

With each newsletter, we have been introducing you to a different member of our team. Did you notice the boo-boo we made in the last newsletter? Believe me it was not intentional to have an article about Cathy again. This month, we would like to introduce another team member, not someone we have introduced before.

### Paula Joss

Paula has been on our team since just prior to Christmas 2010. She came with a vast knowledge in many aspects of the horticulture industry, both in Kiwifruit and Avocado's. She has experience from pack-house work to soil tests, crop estimates and auditing, currently doing some part-time GAP Auditing.

She grew up in the Tauranga area, developing a love for horses, still holding a big interest for her, with her taking on a role of judge at many National Show-jumping Events.

Paula lives on a rural lifestyle block in Te Puna with her husband, Billy, who is currently working for GroPlus as a sprayer and her three children, where she works hard as a house-slave, cook and taxi driver to a strong strapping wrestler son and two beautiful daughters.

Despite all the busy family life, Paula takes the time to do a great job for us looking on the Kaimai, Te Puna, Pyes Pa and Oropi orchards for those pesky pests. Though I hear there is one insect that is not welcome where Paula is.



.Don't forget to check our website for new information, particularly for latest pest alerts. We also have copies of our old newsletter on the website.



# **ENQUIRE NOW**



Avocado Monitoring  
Citrus Monitoring  
Flower Monitoring  
Tamarillo Monitoring  
AvoGreen Training

### The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Spy those leafroller

Who hitch to Aus

before

picking

Bins arrive

To take them away

Fumigate!

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



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