



## ***“Working for the Grower”***



View from Crop-  
Check office.

See [www.ohauti-weather.co.nz](http://www.ohauti-weather.co.nz) for  
local weather  
stations.

# **Newsletter**

## **June 2012**

### **Changes to AvoGreen Protocol**

As mentioned in our last newsletter, there are some changes to AvoGreen, which we have now rolled out. The biggest change you will have noticed if you have been monitored in the last 2-3 weeks, is that we are now basing the threshold for Leafroller on either what is found on fruit or on shoots, not a combination of both as under the old Protocol. This has been changed to try and simplify the Leafroller calculations, particularly for the Owner Operators.

The threshold for Leafroller found on fruit has not changed, but the threshold for Leafroller found on shoots has been increased to 6%. This reflects the fact that when there is a flush of new growth, the Leafroller will be found in the shoots in large numbers, but may not necessarily be found on the fruit at all. For the Leafroller, the young fresh shoots are more favourable than the older tougher fruit skins.

Another important change to AvoGreen is to deal with the grower who sits on a monitoring report for months, using that as an excuse to spray, when we all know the pest that was there when that monitoring occurred, could have long since gone. Therefore, that monitoring cannot now be used after 30 days to justify a spray. We said in the last newsletter that this time was 6 weeks as initially announced by AIC. This has since been revised by AIC. We are sure that none of our growers would use an old report to justify a spray, would they?

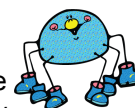
Back-to-back spray times have now been tightened up. The second spray must now be applied no later than 21 days after the first and preferably 10-14 days apart.

We stated in the last newsletter that it is now mandatory to monitor a minimum of 4 times per year. On re-reading the publication from AIC, we see it is not mandatory, but is best-practice. As it is compulsory to do pre-harvest monitoring within 2 weeks of picking, that would mean you need to do 2 monitorings for that and we recommend you at least monitor pre-flowering as well.

### **Soil and Leaf testing**

Jojetta, Cathy and Richard are trying to phone everyone at the moment regarding soil tests. If you would like to talk to us earlier, please phone one of us and we will collect the samples as soon as we can.

Please register on our website under Soil Tests.



### **Spraying**

This is a subject we bring up often, but as we are here “Working for the Grower”, we would not be doing our job if we did not inform you of information that will help you get your fruit to the market.

With little fruit, if you decide to throw on a “winter clean-up spray” without a monitor and later find you have some fruit you would like to export, the fruit will probably not be accepted for export. There is also a suggestion that spraying now even without a crop, may affect your eligibility for future export. Each case will be reviewed individually by AIC.

Following a huge crop and a not so good pay-out (some would say a very bad pay-out), AvoGreen has become the scapegoat, some wanting to go back to calendar spraying. In our thinking, this is a backward step, one that actually costs more. It is simple maths, one effectively timed spray, indicated by regular monitoring, can be just as effective or more so than 2 sprays applied without knowledge of the life cycle of the pest.

Unfortunately there are some growers encouraging monitors to fill in forms without actually monitoring and using that fictitious form as a justification for spray. This practice is placing the grower and the industry at risk..

We have had our staff mention to us that they have entered a property to see tractor tracks (obviously from a sprayer) or have smelt spray, or seen wet spray on trees. Please tell your monitor when they phone if you are intending to apply **any** spray. If you don't, we have instructed our staff to leave the orchard immediately if they suspect a spray has been applied. They must fill in an incident report (to cover us for OSH) and we will contact your sprayer to see what has been applied. You will be charged for the monitor even though it was not completed if you have sprayed.

Lastly, we would appreciate all growers telling our staff if they are spraying Roundup. We often walk in the long grass you have sprayed, wearing shorts and if we are not aware of the application, it could cause a health-risk to our staff.

### **Six Spotted Mite**

We are seeing Six spot numbers rising now, we advise you start monitoring early, don't wait till leaf drop. We suggest monthly monitoring through winter.



## Tamarillo Growers

Are you monitoring actively for Psyllid's. The gut feeling we have is that most growers are not monitoring, but instead are just applying sprays every 3-4 weeks. How about monitoring every 2 weeks from the beginning of November so you are aware when the Psyllid's arrive and thereafter every 3-4 weeks to check that your sprays are being effective?



## Citrus Growers

This is a quiet time of year, with not much happening. The next insect to watch for will be scale in August.

## Flower Growers

A quiet time for most flower crops at the moment with pruning finished and most insects are hibernating or reproducing slowly.

## Olive Growers

We have recently been told Olive growers are having a problem with Peacock Spot. Can we help you to detect the Peacock Spot before it becomes to large a problem?

## Recipe

Sorry it is not an avocado recipe this month. Cathy had a longing to cook a Lemon Tea Cake recently and came across this yummy recipe on a website that you should all check out: [www.blokeswhobake.co.nz](http://www.blokeswhobake.co.nz)

### Peachy Lemon Cake

175g softened butter	3/4 cup sugar
Zest of 1 lemon	3 eggs
1 cup flour	1/4 cup plain yoghurt
1 1/4 tsp baking powder	Icing sugar to dust
400g tin sliced peaches (drained)	



Cream butter, sugar and lemon zest well until creamy. Add eggs one at a time and beat thoroughly. Sift in flour & baking powder, fold through mixture. Fold in yoghurt well, pour into greased or lined 23cm tin. Arrange sliced peaches on top of mixture and bake in oven at 180c for approx 45 minutes. Take out of oven 15 mins before finished cooking, brush top with lemon juice then sprinkle top of cake with sugar.

Serve hot with plain yoghurt on the side.



## Meet the CropCheck Team

Our last team member, and by no means the least, is Ross Sheerin, who holds the roll of fourth company director.

While Crop Check Ltd does not have an independent Director at this time the role is effectively taken up by Ross. Not working daily in the business provides him with the opportunity to provide a very objective view – helpful when the 'big picture' needs focus.



Ross has a degree in economics and business management from Waikato University and a further diploma in business studies from Massey University. He brings a wide variety of experience and skills to the Director's table derived from different 'careers'. These include human resources management, marketing and finance. Ross has worked as a financial planner and investment adviser for over thirteen years and is an Authorised Financial Adviser.

Fruit growing is not new to Ross as he and Jojette grew passionfruit, Erica flowers and oriental lilies on their property for a few years prior to planting avocados around 12 years ago. For a time he was on the executive of the NZ Passionfruit Growers Association, serving two years as Chair.

Jojette manages their avocado orchard while Ross helps out when he can (especially on equipment repair!). He still finds time for his favourite activities of diving, sailing and fishing. Lake Tarawera is missing a few



fish thanks to Ross' visits there with his home-made trout flies. Ross also loves Skype to catch up with his 3 daughters who are all studying, and 1 grandson.



## **ENQUIRE NOW**



Avocado Monitoring  
Citrus Monitoring  
Flower Monitoring  
Tamarillo Monitoring  
AvoGreen Training

### Savings:

In life we never lose friends  
We just learn who our true friends are



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