



**“Working for the Grower”**

**Spring is Here!**



**Newsletter  
August 2014**

### From the Office

The phones have been a little bit of a frustration, but are due for a major upgrade shortly which we hope will overcome the problems. You can still leave a message by speaking after the voice. The message is emailed to us in the office. We also have caller ID and will call back asap.

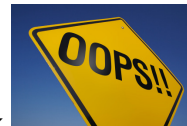
### Owner/Operator Refresher Training

Many Owner Operators are now due to have Refresher training. Please visit our website about prices and email/phone us with your interest in Refresher Training.

### Training to be an Owner Operator

See our website for details and call Cathy or Jo-jette to register interest or ask further questions.

### **SPRAY SIGNS**



Our staff are trained to check spray signs on your orchard for the date and nature of the last spray. If you haven't yet placed a sign (available at most horticultural outlets) near the entrance to your orchard, please do so. This is also part of GAP compliance.

We have recently had an incident where a scout monitored within hours of a sprayer having sprayed. A correctly placed spray sign with current information on it may have avoided this.

We take the safety of our staff very seriously. Please be mindful of this and inform your scout of any impending or recent sprays on your orchard. This includes weed spray under trees.

### Spray Contractor Avomax Has Changed Hands

Craig Bettjeman has sold his business to Colin Gane. The new contact number is: 027 333 3316, email [colin@avomax.co.nz](mailto:colin@avomax.co.nz). Colin grew up in Omokoroa and worked in the area for some time as a shelter trimmer, so will be known to many.

We wish you well Craig, in your new ventures; we are sure you will enjoy the break from spraying.

### **BUG UPDATE:**



### Six-Spotted Mite

Numbers of six-spotted mites are increasing on many orchards, due mainly to the pressure of a big crop. It is highly advisable to monitor for mites in August so that action can be taken before flowering, when greater pressure on the trees' resources favours mite infestation.

### Scale

We have noticed a slight increase in numbers of scale in orchards this season. This may be due to mild conditions. Our scouts are on the look out for scale at every monitoring.

### Greenhouse Thrip

Last summer's explosions of thrip were mostly knocked out by repeat sprays. However, there has been some over wintering of thrip, and more juveniles are now being found as weather warms. If you are heading into a long or late harvest, we suggest spraying again for these, if found on a monitoring.

### Leafroller

Numbers are increasing slowly now and many hatched egg rafts are being found. If you are worried about higher fruit having greater pest pressure then we suggest you hire/borrow a raised platform of some sort and bring down infested fruit to your monitor when he/she visits. These infestations can be added to the monitoring sheet if there are live caterpillars or fresh chewing and only if collected at the time of a monitoring round.



### Pests in Other Crops

Scale, whitefly and fungal problems have been the main findings in **citrus** lately. Greenhouse thrip are also still around, between fruit. Unfortunately, lemon prices have fallen.

In **feijoas** scale and leafroller will soon be found as temperatures increase and fruit set occurs.

## Recipe



### BACON AND AVOCADO MUFFINS

Some of our trainee Owner Operators have had the pleasure of tasting these!

2 cups flour	75 grams butter
4 tsp baking powder	1 egg
1/2 tsp salt	1 cup milk
1 Tbsp sugar	1 avocado
Pinch cayenne pepper	1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 cup (100gm) grated tasty cheese	
4 spring onions, chopped	
3 rashers bacon	



Sieve first 4 dry ingredients into large bowl. Add cayenne, cheese and spring onion and combine.

Chop bacon finely. Cook until crisp. Keep drippings. Melt butter, add egg, milk and bacon drippings and beat to combine.

Halve avocado, scoop out flesh, and cut flesh into 7mm cubes. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Add to liquid mixture. Add bacon to liquid mixture and fold both mixtures together until dry ingredients are just dampened.

Spray 12 medium muffin pans with non-stick spray. Fill each pan with about 1/2 cup mixture.

Bake at 200°C for about 10 mins, or until muffins spring back when lightly pressed in centre.

Enjoy!

## **REMINDERS FOR AUGUST:**

☞ **August 15** is final early export registration cut off. Contact AIC to register.

☞ Complete your 2014-15 **Monitoring Plan Calendar** as soon as you receive it, and return it to us.

☞ Monitor for 6 spotted mite well before flowering.

## Records of Monitoring

For GAP auditing, prior to harvest, you will need to have kept your monitoring records, along with proof that you have a monitoring plan agreement with an Operator.



If you need copies of your monitoring records, please contact the office. They can be emailed to you. A small fee may apply, so keeping your own records when we first send you the monitoring results is the best idea. Maps are also available from our office for a charge of \$25 + GST.

## Monitoring Plan Calendars

We are sending you your monitoring plan for 2014-15 this month. This is one of the main records we keep for your paperwork compliance for Avogreen. **PLEASE** fill in the **GREEN** highlighted area and return a copy to us as a matter of urgency.



It doesn't matter that you don't know the size of the next crop. You may change your monitoring frequency if there is no crop by sending an email to the office.



## Harvest 2014

Several Bay of Plenty orchards have already been passed for export. It will be an early season and great for growers to reduce the fruit load before flowering, if that can be achieved!

Remember, CropCheck Ltd staff are available to do a **pre-harvest monitor**, should you be asked to do so by your pack house.

## **ENQUIRE NOW**



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



## Spraying for Six-Spotted Mite

In the spirit of AvoGreen we don't recommend spraying for mites coming into peak summer temperatures as they will naturally decline in the heat. Approaching flowering (Aug-Sept) is the time to be most vigilant. The recommended thresholds to apply spray:

- ★ 25% at low levels (<5 mites/leaf)
- ★ 15% at medium levels (5-10 mites/leaf)
- ★ Or 10% at high levels (>10 mites/leaf)



**Contact: Office 07 544 2201**

**Cathy Harris mob: 027 235 3919**

**Jojetta Drost mob: 027 246 6303**

**Email: [sales@cropcheck.co.nz](mailto:sales@cropcheck.co.nz)**

**Website: [www.cropcheck.co.nz](http://www.cropcheck.co.nz)**

**PO Box 2007  
Seventh Ave Mail Centre**



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