



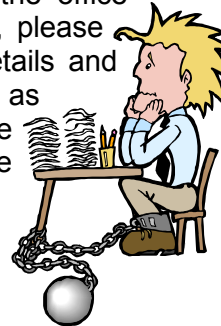
“Working for the Grower”



**Newsletter
April 2013**

From the Office

Cathy and David have moved the CropCheck office out of the temporary Modcom building after 20 months and into their new office, however there is still plenty of interior finishing to do before the office and cottage are completed, which should happen in the next 3 weeks. There is always someone here to answer the office phones, but if there is no reply, please leave a message and contact details and someone will get back to you as soon as we can. Cathy or Jojette are usually contactable by mobile phone.



Citrus Growers





We are again finding Kelly's thrip now that temperatures are cooler, and greenhouse thrip are often in citrus blocks but only in small numbers.

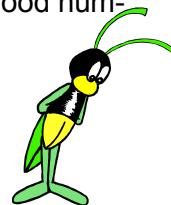
Scale crawlers could be on the move again now that autumn is coming.

Botritis is a problem everywhere with the showers of rain on newly formed fruit where petals are still attached.

Beneficials

The following have been found in good numbers on some orchards lately:

-  Lacewing
-  Predatory wasps
-  Stethorus
-  Thripobius javae (more than usual)



The long hot summer has encouraged good numbers of wasps, and, if sprays have been pest-selective, these numbers should stay well into autumn, helping to keep pests such as Leaf roller at bay.

Leafroller Levels

After the small amount of rain, Leafroller are returning. Sprays used to control thrip have reduced Leafroller numbers also, but they will become a problem again before winter, so make sure you check for these this month.



Six-spotted mite

Some block have seen an increase in the numbers of six-spotted mites lately. Cleaning up mites before winter is advised if numbers are tending upwards into the 10s for the middle and high severities. This could avoid a sudden explosion in Spring, when rain and flowering can prevent spraying.

Greenhouse Thrip

It has been another challenging season for greenhouse thrip. Even kiwifruit have been affected, especially neighbouring avocados.



Some growers manage to control thrip with a single spray, it appears. However, numbers have risen again only a few weeks later, even after 2 sprays. Keep an eye on these creatures, making sure you are free of them before reducing monitoring frequency going into winter. It is still warm enough for thrip to lay eggs that hatch within 3 weeks.

Website

Have you checked out our website recently? (www.cropcheck.co.nz) If you want a soil test, please fill in the form on the Soil Test page on the website. Links are also on that page to Hills Laboratory and Ravensdown for you to look up information on soil tests.



We would like to thank Brendan at Framelt for keeping our website updated regularly. On the front page, you will find regular alerts on current pest pressure, make that page a regular stop.



Recipe

Here's a delicious cold soup idea for the last of the hot summer evenings. Jojette's Dutch uncle is a wonderful cook, and invented this one himself.

Cold Avocado Soup

4 ripe avocados

Lemon juice

500ml chicken stock

Paprika

Sour cream

Sprigs of herbs (Frits uses fennel)

Maggi stock powder for seasoning

Rub avocados through a sieve. Add a little lemon juice to prevent discolouration. Add Maggi chicken stock to taste. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and a sprinkling of paprika.

Bon appetite!

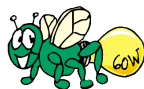
Account Payments

We have been having some problems identifying which invoices some of you are paying. Please make sure you include the tear-off from the bottom of your invoices if you pay by cheque. If you pay by Internet Banking, please put your 5 digit PPIN in the code column and the invoice number only that you are paying, in the reference column. This makes life much easier for us all.

LOLOLOL

Q: What was the spider doing on David's computer?

A: Searching the web...Of course.



Reminders

A second thrip spray may be applied within 3 weeks of the first without a monitoring between.

However, with the rising number of Leafroller around, it would be advisable to find out if that second spray needs to include something for Leafroller. So we would advise monitoring 10-14 days after the first spray. Secondly, a monitoring is only valid for 4 weeks. Keep this in mind when reducing monitoring frequency. You may not use the results of a monitoring for spray justification once the monitoring is older than 4 weeks.



New Growers

Welcome new growers to the CropCheck fold, we hope you are happy with the service we offer. If you have any questions, please contact your assigned monitor or phone Jojette or Cathy. Our contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

Are you a Farmlands cardholder? Jojette and Cathy have not been specifically asking new growers for Farmlands card details. If you would like to pay via Farmlands, please email or phone the office with your membership name and number.



Soil Test Time

Now is the time for soil and leaf tests. We are out taking samples now and can send them to Hills or Ravensdown laboratories. Consultants are also available to assist you with decisions on what to apply. Please go to our website and fill in the form under the 'Soil Test' tab or phone us if you do not have the internet.

ENQUIRE NOW



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

Joke of the Month

Q: What's a caterpillar scared of?

A; A dogerpillar.



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