



“Working for the Grower”



June Newsletter

Welcome

Wow, it is the end of a very long hot summer at last. There has been very big problems with Greenhouse Thrip on many orchards, which we hope will now be under control with the cooler weather.

Insect lifecycles over Winter



Those of you who attended the very informative talks by AIC’s Paul Brookbanks lately, will have been given the handout with the graphs of egg to adult development times over differing temperatures for Greenhouse Thrip and Six-spotted mite.

If you applied this to your orchard you could predict that, with cooling temperatures, the time between back-to-back sprays for Greenhouse Thrip could be stretched to 3-4 weeks now. However, CropCheck staff have recently noticed jumps in numbers of Greenhouse Thrip even where a previous monitoring showed no cause for spray in the Katikati area. However blocks in the Te Puna, Oropi, Welcome Bay areas have remained very high, even with back-to-back sprays.

Growers must also be aware that night temperatures are still mild and that Leaf roller and Six-spotted Mite can also be a problem in Autumn. Leaving monitoring for more than 3 weeks or until after a second thrip spray may well put the orchard at risk from these other pests, thereby necessitating a further spray and costing the grower more money, when another monitor could mean a more broad-spectrum chemical may be used or indeed, there may be no need to spray at all.

We have mentioned Thrip, Leafroller and Six-Spotted Mite above, now we need to also mention Scale. These have increased a lot recently with a number of blocks having scale on fruit at just below or on the threshold of 6%.

We **recommend you monitor between back-to-back spray applications** where the applications are **more than 2 weeks apart**. This way, the choice of spray for the second application could be altered to allow for other pests if necessary.

Hopefully, a clean orchard over early-mid June will mean little or no sprays are needed over winter, as temperatures will eventually come down, and monitoring can drop back to monthly.



Soil and Leaf testing for Avocados and Kiwifruit

CropCheck are now able to take soil and leaf samples whilst visiting your orchard for a monitoring. Unfortunately, the best timing for sampling has just passed, but with the mild temperatures this Autumn, early June will be a good sampling time also. Our staff are able to collect the samples on their monitoring round and will send the samples for you by courier to the laboratory.



We have been in contact with R.J Hills Laboratory, who we believe deliver the best quality service, and have equipment and knowledge about how best to take samples on your behalf.

The “at cost” prices for leaf and soil testing are as follows:

Basic soil test	\$53
Basic leaf test	\$75

A charge for collecting samples will be added to your account along with the cost price of testing. These are:

Samples taken during a pest monitoring round: add \$25

Outside of monitoring visits: add \$47

(staff will arrange to take samples when they are in your area)

All prices are GST exclusive.



Fertiliser recommendations

We can give you a list of people who could do a diagnostic report that details the required fertiliser additions. Otherwise you can have results posted, faxed or emailed to you directly and make your own decisions.

Monitoring Plans – intended frequencies

Over the month of July you will be phoned by Crop-Check Ltd to discuss your next season’s Monitoring Plan. The Plan runs for 12 months from August each year and can include such information as **planned picking time**, pruning plans, and clean-up spray timing. Several Pack-houses have already approached growers with a planned picking schedule, so if you have one, we would like to know. Remember this season’s fruit requires a **pre-harvest monitoring** for Leaf roller eggrafts.

CropCheck Ltd will then post you 2 copies of the Monitoring Plan as discussed. You will need to sign these and return a copy to us. In discussions about next season’s Monitoring Plan, growers should be mindful of the large

Monitoring Plans Continued

Crop, the resulting stress on trees, and the **risk of six-spotted mite explosion** in early Spring. For these reasons we recommend beginning 2-3 weekly monitoring from early August to allow time to deal to any problems well before flowering.

If you would prefer to discuss the Monitoring Plan in person, Cathy or Jojette can arrange to visit.

Flower Growers

There are no changes from the last newsletter apart from watch now for scale.



Citrus Growers

Again, there is little change from the last newsletter.

Avocado Recipe

We usually put an avocado recipe here, but came across a yummy Feijoa recipe from one of our growers (thank you Elizabeth Griffin) and would like to share that with you.

Feijoa & Walnut Cake

100 g butter	1/2 cup chopped walnuts 
1 cup sultanas	1 cup peeled, chopped feijoas
1 cup sugar	1 egg
1 1/2 cups flour	2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp ground cardamom	

Grease and line a 24cm square tin, preheat oven to 180C. Melt butter in large pot, remove from heat, cool slightly, stir in walnuts, feijoas, sultanas and sugar. Beat egg lightly, mix in. Sift flour, baking soda & cardamom, mix together well, turn into prepared tin & bake for about 45 mins. Cool on wire rack for 30 min, then carefully turn out.

Variations: Use chopped apple when feijoas are out of season, The cardamom can be replaced with allspice plus a little ground cloves.

Website

This season has been a trying time for sprays. We have had a number of growers ask us for names of spray contractors, especially if they have had to wait some time for the contractor to get to them. We do not recommend any particular contractor, but have a list of contractors on our website www.cropcheck.co.nz under the links tab.

Meet the CropCheck Team

With each newsletter, we have been introducing you to a different member of our team, and again this month, we would like to introduce another team member.



Esther O'Connell

If you are in the Katikati North to Katikati South area, you may have the pleasure of having Esther visit you. She has been on our team for nearly 1 year and has proved to be a very able team member, who loves spending time out in the orchards.

Esther has two school age children of whom she is very proud and whom are also very proud of their special mum. She has an Arts and Science degree from Canada, and is presently studying psychology, so she's a busy woman!

CropCheck Ltd is fortunate to have Esther on the team with her hard-working ethic and enthusiasm.



CropCheck Office is on the Move

We will be moving in the next 2 weeks to a temporary building on Ohauti Road while we build a new office. The office will be just over 4 kms from the Welcome Bay corner. Please phone first if you would like to visit us. All our contact details, apart from physical address, will be unchanged.

ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Lingering warmth
luring pests
Rain filled drains
halting sprays
Go autumn days



(Checkout the full poem on our website.)

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