



“Working for the Grower”



Six spotted mite and eggs in the v of a leaf.

Newsletter October 2014

CropCheck Ltd voluntary work done for the Avocado industry

We are sure many of you think that Crop-Check Ltd is just in the business for the money. Sadly, our margins are very tight, In a very competitive market

However, there are many activities which CropCheck engages in voluntarily, in order to assist the industry, and to keep abreast of industry issues.

We thought you may like to know what other work we do:

1. Avogreen process and Training review meetings with other Operators, Trainers and AIC
2. Attendance and participation in Field days and Road-shows held by AIC and pack houses
3. Meeting AIC scientists and collaborating with Plant and Food scientists in research for the avocado and kiwifruit industries



Bee safe!

Pollination time is almost upon us. Please notify our staff when hives have been placed in your orchard. Apply sprays, if necessary, well before flowering.



Tamarilo

It's now time to start looking for Psylid. They will start hatching in the next month to 6 weeks. It's wise to monitor from now on.

Bad Weather

Our thoughts are with those of you who have suffered a lot of damage due to the recent bad weather. It is heartbreaking seeing fruit on the ground. We heard of one grower putting dropped fruit through a chipper. Good idea putting the wasted fruit back into the orchard as mulch. Have you tried sending to oil?

Leafroller Levels

There have been numerous leafroller egg rafts observed in the last month. Most have hatched. so expect an influx of small caterpillars soon



Six-spotted mite

We have warned growers early this year, about the likelihood of outbreaks of six-spotted mite before flowering, especially in a year such as this with high crop loads. Last year a couple of our clients lost leaves going into and during flowering, due to mite pressure. We try hard to help you avoid this situation!

So far, we have averted leaf drop on some orchards, by urgently contacting growers when numbers are high and advising them to spray soon. Many growers have needed to spray twice to deal to eggs hatching after a spray.

Beneficials

Lacewings are early this year. Usually we don't see many of them until mid-summer. Beneficial mites are also in abundance on orchards where little spraying has been done over winter.

We are seeing a few ladybirds also, particularly the Stethorus ladybird which feeds on six-spotted mite, although numbers are still at low levels, they are increasing as Six spotted mite increase.

Citrus

Scale will have settled now, Citrus white fly will be hatching late October early November and Kelly's Citrus Thrip will be on the fruitlets shortly.

Flowers

Aphid and Flower thrip will be about now and 2 spotted mite will make an appearance as the weather becomes hotter and drier.



Monitoring Frequencies

Thank you to all who have returned the Monitoring Calendar. We urgently need any unreturned calendars, this tells how frequently you want monitoring. Contact the office if you need another Calendar.

Recipe

Post-election Greenies Crepe

(Read this title how you like! ;)

For those of you with a pension for celebration, and a spare bottle of Grand Marnier, this sounds like a hit. We would love to hear how you like it!



Crepe recipe:

1 1/4 cups milk 1 egg, whole
1 egg yolk 20gm butter
2 tbsp raw sugar 1 cup plain flour

Blend all ingredients in a blender. Turn off and stir down flour. Blend again. Stand in fridge 1 hour before using.

Use small amount of butter to grease heavy fry pan. Allow pan to get fairly hot before pouring in batter. Pour a little batter in for each crepe, turning when bubbles appear. Allow to cool separately if freezing crepes in advance.

4 avocados thinly sliced

Whipped cream to serve

Thin strips of glazed orange slices to garnish

Sauce:

60g unsalted butter grated orange rind
Juice of 2 oranges 3 tbsp raw sugar or
2 tbsp Grand Marnier honey

Heat butter in frying pan and stir in juice, rind and sugar/honey. Cook a minute or 2 over gentle heat.

Assembly:

Roll crepes into cylinders with thinly sliced avocados. Add crepe cylinders to sauce and cook gently on all sides.

Decorate with glazed orange slices. Add Grand Marnier and flame. Serve while alight, with cream in a separate dish.

Staff Updates

We were lucky to have Natasja de Graaf work with many of our Katikati growers from late last year to the end of June this year. Her communications with both growers and other staff were excellent. She has since gained full-time employment in her field of social work, with WINS.

Carol Wesley has also gained a full-time position outside of CropCheck starting in Term 4 at Bethlehem Primary.. Carol has worked so well for us balancing her house-build, children and other part-time work, and growers on her client list will miss her cheerful attitude.

Carol has been replaced recently with a former horticulture lecturer from BOP Polytechnic, Kazel Cass. We expect Kazel to be managing her own list of growers within a month, after buddying with Cathy. Kazel has a keen eye for orchard well-being, and is an advocate for Integrated Pest Management, biodiversity and organic growing

We would still be interested in hiring an extra staff member for the Katikati area, which is a busy area for crop monitoring. An Owner-operator with a spare 5-10 hours/week would be ideal.

Meet the CropCheck Team

Rochelle Kean

Rochelle Kean came to join our team recently and has taken over many of the orchards Natasja was visiting. She is a former journalist and current Owner-Operator who works on her parents' avocado orchard in Athenree. Rochelle has young children and a scientist husband at home to add to her busy lifestyle. She has been very quick to learn our company values and systems; we hope you will stay a good while with us Rochelle!



ENQUIRE NOW



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

Important points of the season:

-  Bee safe—let staff know when hives arrive
-  Let staff know when and what you have sprayed, including fresh herbicide sprays
-  Picking dates are helpful for us to know
-  Check our website for the latest pest alerts



Contact: Office 07 544 2201

Cathy Harris mob: 027 235 3919

Jojette Drost mob: 027 246 6303

Email: sales@cropcheck.co.nz

Website: www.cropcheck.co.nz



**PO Box 2007
Seventh Ave Mail Centre
Tauranga 3140**

©CropCheck Limited 2010 - 2014
Some Clipart by GraphicsFactory.com

E. & O.E.