



Monitoring Plans



As a follow-up to last month's newsletter, we would like to clarify a few points. Monitoring frequencies, as discussed there, are recommended best practice. We have been back to AIC for clarification and it appears that all growers monitored by an approved operator such as CropCheck Ltd, or an owner/operator, **must** have a Monitoring Plan which **must** be adhered too. The plan is the basis for the AIC audit; if you have not monitored at planned times, there must be a valid reason documented for not monitoring. Our understanding is that valid reasons for a delay would be:

- ☞ spraying
- ☞ harvesting
- ☞ rain
- ☞ pruning
- ☞ other hazardous activity on the orchard such as shelter trimming
- ☞ **Note:** the presence of bees is not deemed to be a hazardous activity.



"Working for the Grower"

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU
ALL**



December Newsletter

In a light year, monitoring may be spread further after it is established that a light fruit set exists, but the grower needs to be aware that the purpose for monitoring is to give the grower early awareness of pests present on the trees and the further you push the monitoring out, the more likelihood there will be of damage to fruit.

It is not clear yet, but we presume the Monitoring Plan and the completed monitoring sheets will also be checked to your spray diary's to make sure spray has not been applied without a monitor to show that you are over threshold and that there is a reason to spray. Please understand that although Avogreen has been around as a voluntary system for a long time, there are big changes to this seasons protocol, with it evolving and changing all the time.

Action Plan

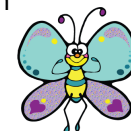
For all our monitoring clients, we have developed a Monitoring Plan which we would like you to sign

and return to us for us to keep with your contract. For all owner/operators, there is a monitoring schedule in the Avogreen manual; you need to complete this as per the example and keep it with your Avogreen file.

Monitoring Frequency Recommendation

In saying all this, there is guidance in the Avogreen manual as to frequency of monitoring. This can be very confusing! To simplify, in our experience fortnightly monitoring from the end of flowering increasing to weekly when Greenhouse thrip appear on touching young fruit. You can apply a back to back spray if you are over threshold for thrip without monitoring between sprays, but then you are recommended to return to fortnightly monitoring. **Please note:** thrip can do a lot of damage very quickly.

After thrip numbers drop, usually about the end of April to mid May, it is safe to go to monthly monitoring. And at each monitor, it makes sense to look for all major pests, but being conscious that there are different pressure times as on the Low to Moderate Pest Pressure (fig 2) table in the Avogreen Manual.



Spraying Without Monitoring

This seems to still be confusing some growers. Under Avogreen, there are only 3 times you can spray without a monitor. These are:

1. A post-flowering clean-up spray before the end of January
2. A second spray 14-21 days after the first, if you are over threshold for Greenhouse Thrip
3. One spray for scale if there was scale at your last packout.

Apart from the above exceptions, **NO SPRAY** can be applied without a monitoring report showing you are over threshold, therefore giving you a valid reason to spray.



Flower Growers

All the flower growers are fully into their season now and with this hot weather, the **2 spotted mite** and **aphids** will be breeding well. If you are thinking of monitoring, it is probably time you were underway now. My feeling is we are in for a long hot summer and we will see high numbers of **2 spotted mite** particularly.



Citrus Growers

Kelly's Citrus Thrip numbers are now climbing rapidly with some early signs of damage on lemons. If you are not monitoring 2 weekly yet, it is time to increase your frequency to avoid damage to your lemon or lime crops.



Avocado Recipe

One of our favourite ways to have avocado is with a nice piece of pan-fried fish and our special seafood sauce.

Whip 1 bottle cream and add

4 tbsp sugar

Pinch salt

Few drops Tabasco Sauce

Approx 1 tbsp Worcester Sauce (to taste)

Approx 4 tbsp tomato sauce (to taste)



Christmas Hours

Our staff will be monitoring as usual throughout the holiday period, though they will be having a break on the Statutory Holidays. Richard is

away for a month, so any of his growers are welcome to phone the office, or Jojette or Cathy if they have any concerns.

Meet the CropCheck Team

With each newsletter, we will introduce you to one member of our team.



Richard Carr

Richard is in his mid 60's, with a work history in many area's of horticulture, including orchard management, working in many rolls from tractor driver to management in pack-houses, with both avocados and kiwifruit, he has also owned his own orchard and is once again looking for his own block.

Richard is an interesting person with a love of aeroplanes, sailing and diving. In his past work-life, he has worked as a mechanic, engineer, boat builder and builder. After a fight with a chainsaw and tractor in recent times, Richard is very aware of safety on orchards.

He is married to Jan, his best friend and lifelong companion. They have 2 adult sons living in Australia and 5 grandchildren.

Richard is very aware of grower requirements, and the important roll he has in helping to protect your crop. Therefore he believes he needs to take his time to make sure he is finding all the pests and beneficials to help keep spray costs and pest levels down and ensure optimum returns.

So for those growers in the Te Puna through to Pahioa area, you are the privileged who have Richard visiting you as our monitor.



ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Fruit set
Bees leave
Leafrollers munch
Thrips come
Rains hide
Hot sun



(Watch for another verse in the next newsletter)

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



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