



“Working for the Grower”



Go Bees!

**Newsletter
October 2013**

From the Office

Many hours have been spent sending out Monitoring Plans, Newsletters, invoices etc to our growers, and updating the website. Happily, Cathy and David were able to take an overnight stay in Taupo recently to recharge. There is still much to be done outdoors, like most of you, to maintain and develop gardens and orchard.



Owner/Operator Refresher Training

Sheryl Wilson from AIC is sending out reminders to Owner Operators that their licence needs renewing in 2014-15.

A Refresher course will involve reviewing the PowerPoint, sitting a similar test to the one you sat originally, and field monitoring. It should only take about 4 hours. We will provide Refresher Training at a very reasonable rate, if we can get more than 4 people together to attend.

Please send us an email or phone us if you intend to renew your licence and let us know when would suit you best. We will post suitable times on our website once we gain consensus.

Nutritional Values Avocado Conference

This was reasonably well-attended by industry representatives, Australian and NZ growers, although many growers chose not to go due to the expense.

Talks were often tailored specifically to Australian growers—these being poorly attended. However, the NZ relevant speakers gained huge audiences in some cases.

AIC did a fantastic job organising speakers, sponsors, welcoming and directing delegates. Remits from the Conference will be in the Avoscene which is about to be sent out and will also be available on the AIC website under “News”.

Protocol Change

Leafroller threshold on leaf is now 4% not 6%

Windfalls

We have experienced severe equinoxial winds lately—something we haven’t seen as bad for a few years. Our staff will advise absentee owners of the extent of damage to their orchards in our reports.

Removing your windfalls should help keep rat numbers to a minimum, but please be mindful of adversely affecting the marketing of good fruit by dumping such fruit at cheap prices.

Leafroller, Scale and Greenhouse Thrip

These are still not in big numbers at the moment. Continue to check for Leafroller through flowering so as to time your Leafroller clean-up spray effectively. Remember you are at liberty to spray one Leafroller spray between the end of flowering and the end of January without a monitoring, but if you haven’t monitored you won’t know when the best timing is, or if you need to spray at all for Leafroller, or indeed for anything else.

If Scale were found in your recent pack out, then the clean-up spray could include spray for Scale, without a Scale monitoring.

Six-spotted mite

Please be on the watch for mite numbers climbing. These could explode **very** quickly. If you get high numbers through flowering, it will be detrimental to tree health, and severe leaf fall may occur. Six spotted mite have so far not been seen in quite as high severity as the past 2 years, but are still around enough to be of concern. As mentioned before, mites build resistance to sprays easily, so be very wise with spray applications..

Apiarists

A list of Bee Keepers has been prepared on our website under ‘Links’. If you know of any Apiarists who may like to be added to the list, please ask them to contact us.



Recipe

With mushrooms and asparagus freely available now, it is the season to try this grand-looking yummy dish. I served it with baked Tarawera trout at a dinner party. Lucky Ross catches some fish!

ASPARAGUS AVOCADO MUSHROOMS

8 large mushrooms, stalks gently twisted out.
Bunch of fresh (or tinned) asparagus spears
1 avocado

Juice 1 lemon
Optional dash or 2 of Tabasco sauce
(I used 1/4 tsp cayenne)
Freshly ground black pepper
Grated cheese

Sour cream and paprika to garnish



Arrange the tops of asparagus spears over mushrooms slightly overlapping the edges (leave stalks for sauce). Chop stalks and mash with avocado, lemon juice, Tabasco and freshly ground pepper. Pile onto mushrooms, allowing mixture to sit slightly above level of mushrooms. Sprinkle over grated cheese and grill until bubbly. Note: can be served raw.



Garnish with a little sour cream and a sprinkle of paprika. Mmmm! Many delicate flavours mixed together.

Farmlands Card

Thanks for signing up to use Farmlands Card for payments. Send us your membership name and number to take advantage of paying this way.



Citrus Growers

Time to be on the lookout for Kelly's Citrus Thrip now as flowering continues and fruitlets are formed. This is when the biggest damage occurs.

Monitoring Plan Calendars

These were sent to all clients recently. The early return of these will avoid them getting lost!



Please feel free to discuss the monitoring frequencies with us before you sign and return the Plan. Also, please remember to insert the Intended Number of Monitorings and the Intended Start Date on the top right hand corner of the form.

If there is need for a dramatic change to the agreed Monitoring Plan, we will need an explanation from you or you may risk losing Avogreen compliance.

Harvesting

Many growers are underway with this season's harvest. Once you know your picking dates, we would appreciate you telling your CropCheck scout so we can time our next visit with the Pre-Harvest Monitor if that is required. If you need to spray, it is advisable to get advice from your packhouse on what to spray close to harvest to avoid withholding period problems.



Avomax Reports

Many of you have asked that we send copies of your monitoring report to Avomax. Craig Bettjeman has been swamped with emails and has not been reading them, so following a recent discussion with Craig, we are making a change. If your report is clean, we will not send it to him, if it is over threshold, we will send a copy, and if you have a number of pests, (eg 8% Leafroller) the report will be sent marked High Priority. We will follow up to see that this change is working better.



Vacancy

Due to growth, we have 2 staff vacancies, 1 in Kati-kati, 1 in Kaimai area. Phone the office to apply.



ENQUIRE NOW



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

Jokes of the season

We have a bit of a writer on our staff. This came in this week in an email.



Had two orchard's to do but when I got to the first they had just sprayed so I hopped into my velocipede and cranked it up to a high velocity and transrelocated to the next orchard down the road.

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