



## “Working for the Grower”



**Merry Christmas to you  
and your families!**

# Newsletter December 2012

### Staff Changes

We are sorry to see Paula Joss leave us. She has been an enthusiastic and energetic monitor until recently, when another job has provided more work hours. We wish her well for the future and thank her for her contribution to the team.

It is with great pleasure that we have been able to attract **Deb Blyth** to our team, who Cathy and Jojette know from previous employment as crop monitors for FruitFed. Deb was the one to train Cathy originally!

Deb has a very cheerful personality and is looking forward to meeting many of you. Perhaps some of you know her already.

Her and husband, Henry, have been orcharding for 23 years. They have kiwifruit and avocados, so they know the realities of hard times and hard work.

Deb and Henry have still managed to send 3 children through university. Therefore Deb has little time for her interests of fishing and cross-stitch. She describes Henry and herself laughingly as ‘empty nesters with geriatric pets’.

**Welcome to the CropCheck team Deb!**



### Farmlands Card Holders



A reminder to please give us your Farmlands Shareholder’s name and Shareholder’s number if you have a Farmlands Card and wish to pay using your card.

### Leafroller Levels

These have been building over the last month, starting as tiny caterpillars in the tight new flush, to now moving onto larger leaves and webbing them together. Growers may spray one leafroller spray after flowering until the end of January without a monitoring. After that, export-bound fruit will need a monitoring to justify further sprays.

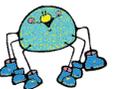


### Six-spotted mite

After flowering, remaining six-spotted mite numbers tend to reduce naturally once the weather warms and dries. However, if numbers are creeping up (there are now guidelines in the AvoGreen manual on severity levels) and haven’t been sprayed, growers would still be advised to control six-spotted mite to avoid possible stress-induced leaf drop.

### Greenhouse Thrip

These are currently at very low numbers, but with the current weather conditions, they will make an appearance in early January or as soon as the young fruit start to touch, whether that be a fruit touching a branch or leaf or another fruit. As the forecasters are expecting a hot dry summer, it would be advisable to get on top of the thrip early and keep on top of them.



### Reminders:

Spray contractors are busy with large numbers of orchards, so book your sprays as soon as you know you are on a pest threshold. Ask your pack house representative or advisor about the withholding period of any sprays you apply, particularly after the end of January.

### Pollination Trial:

Thank you to those growers who responded, it looks like the trial will go ahead next season. We will be in touch with you to let you know when we know more.

## Citrus Growers

If you haven't already sprayed we recommend weekly monitoring of lemons and limes through to February due to the high risk of Kelly's Citrus Thrip. The recommended threshold is 3% from November to February (Citrus IPM programme from NZ Citrus Growers Inc.). Soft scale are also at highest risk from November until February. Control methods work best on crawler and juvenile stages, so early detection is important. Also present in large numbers now are Citrus White Fly, which will encourage sooty mould.



## Flower Growers

Hydrangea growers should be in full picking mode at present, having sprayed at least 2 Success sprays before harvest. Two-spotted mite will be a risk at present with the hot dry weather.

## Recipe

We hope you will love this different, colourful Christmas salad to go with the ham or barbecue:

### **SUMMER SALAD**

Put the following ingredients into a large salad bowl:

1/4 smallish watermelon cubed

1/3 telegraph cucumber cubed

Add a small bunch of seedless grapes and a sprig of mint chopped

Toss to mix and lastly add:

2 peeled cubed ripe avocados (cutting them in their half skins avoids a mushy mess)

Drizzle over a sweet vinaigrette (eg. Lemon juice + olive oil + apple syrup + cracked pepper).

Chill before serving, garnished with a few more small sprigs of mint for colour.



## From the Directors

Bees went crazy after the Spring winds left us, but it is still early days to know what final fruit set will be. Orchards which had an early prune (before summer 2011-12) had good flowering on new wood. Later pruning meant that only the remaining 'nursery' branches produced flower. Irrigation and good boron levels may have a hand in keeping fruit on the tree, so lets hope that fruit stays on through the beginning of summer and beyond!

We have recently sent out new Monitoring Plans (Calendars) for this coming season. Note: the new requirement to state how many monitorings you will have in a year. Most growers are happy to go with the recommendations. However, after a really poor fruit set growers may be unhappy to commit to a set number of monitorings in a year. Please be assured, you will not be **made** to monitor, but you do need to contact us with a letter if you want to stop monitoring stating the reason why. This covers you for AvoGreen for the following season as long as you do not apply a spray without a monitoring to justify it, or if you find you do have a crop this season and wish to re-start monitoring. However, cutting back monitoring risks losing fruit quality, as sprays will not be well-timed for pests. There is also pest build-up after a season of no sprays.

**To all our valued grower clients and their families:**



We wish you a joyful Christmas, a safe holiday time, and a prosperous New Year for 2013!

# **ENQUIRE NOW**



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

## Christmas Cracker:

Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

A: Santa Claustrophobia



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