



**“Working for the Grower”**



Greenhouse Thrip adult and juvenile

**Newsletter  
April 2014**

### From the Office

David would like to remind growers to please enter their PPIN (Just the 5 digit number in the “Code” field) and invoice number (Just the Number in the “Reference” field) when making payments online or by Direct Credit as it makes it much easier for us to work out who has paid what when it arrives on our Bank Statement. This can be a major hold-up with our monthly invoicing and it can take some time to sort out what payments belong to what grower, then fielding the phone calls when our guess has not been correct. If you are paying by cheque can you also please send in the slip from the bottom of your invoice or write the PPIN (5 Digits) and invoice numbers on the back of your cheque. Thank you.

### Soil Test Time



April to June is the best time to carry out soil tests. We recommend you book in now so these can be carried out by our staff when they come through for monitoring. We recommend Hills Laboratory and are happy to send the results to your consultant for their recommendations as we do not do fertilizer recommendations. Sign up on our website too book your test. <http://www.cropcheck.co.nz/soil-testing/>

### Thripobius Jarvae

Some growers may have noticed that these insects have been mentioned on your monitoring reports. Thripobius were first introduced to New Zealand in 2001 after being imported from Italy in 2000. Some research was carried out until 2007 to see how well the parasitoid has been established in NZ and the conclusion was that it had become established in Northland, but they could not tell how effective it was in controlling GHT.

It is exciting seeing a greater number present than we have ever seen before, but it is unclear yet how far they have spread. They have been seen mostly in the Te Puna, Kaimai, and Pyes Pa areas. They are extremely small (smaller than GHT) and move very fast, so a fast moving person will miss them; you need to approach very slowly and gently.

To see information on the research: [http://www.nzpps.org/journal/61/nzpp\\_610170.pdf](http://www.nzpps.org/journal/61/nzpp_610170.pdf)

### The Greenhouse Thrip Story

Thrip numbers have suddenly exploded in the last couple of weeks, now appearing in high numbers with some damage starting to occur. The back to back sprays using different products 10-14 days apart seem to be working very well. Those growers who have tried to hold off doing the 2nd spray, have been having to repeat the sprays many more times to achieve control, therefore not saving themselves any money but risking the fruit being damaged.

Thrip are a difficult insect to kill due to the nature of their lifecycle. The first sign of thrip on the orchard, are the adult who have probably flown in from surrounding shelter or gardens where they will have been living on rhododendron, citrus or pines etc. They snuggle into a nice sheltered spot between fruit or where a fruit is touching a leaf or branch and start feeding on the skin of the avocado. To reproduce they drill some holes in the skin of the fruit and lay their eggs inside the fruit. Thrip are *parthenogenetic*, which means they don't need a mate to produce eggs.

When the grower decides to spray, it kills the adults that are feeding on the fruit, but not their eggs which are nicely protected from the sprays under the skin of the fruit and will shortly hatch to carry on their blood lines.

Hence, when we advise you to do 2 sprays for thrip, we are advising this to try and break that lifecycle which all occurs within 15 days in hot weather. If a 2nd spray is not applied until 22 days or more, the 10 juveniles that will have hatched from the eggs of the 1 adult, will now be adults and laying eggs ready for the next generation.

Where fruit hang singly, there is not so much of a problem, but unfortunately that is one of the biggest battles we have in heavy fruit set years. It's disappointing going into orchards where the thrip have done major damage as we can see the pay-out for the grower being eaten away by this tiny insect.

### Scale



Scale have been hatching over the last month and can be seen in increasing numbers on Avocado's and Citrus.

## Recipe

.Cathy and David have been enjoying this new recipe, recently passed on by Cathy's sister.

### Rhubarb Sourcream Cake

5 tbsp butter

1 1/2 cup soft brown sugar (quite sweet so may need less)

*Cream then add - 2 eggs. Beat well then add:*

280grms sourcream

2 tsp cinnamon

Dash of Vanilla

1 lemon juice and mind

3 sm cups of flour.

*Stir gently then lastly fold in:*

1 tsp Baking soda dissolved in a splash of milk and 5 stalks of chopped rhubarb.

Pour into lined tin, sprinkle liberally with soft brown sugar and bake 1 1/4 hours at 160-180 being careful not to burn the sugar on top.

### Leafroller Levels

Leafroller are still present in the orchards, though not in particularly high numbers. He can still be found between fruit having a good munch on some orchards.

### Six-spotted mite

These little greeblies are increasing in numbers already, though are not causing any leaf-drop yet. It would be very wise to keep an eye on the numbers of mites as stress increases on the trees with the sizing up of fruit, flowering, dry weather conditions. It is not clear what causes the trees to drop their leaves, but it seems to be a combination of pressures on the trees. Originally it was thought the only pressure time is September to November, but in the last couple of seasons, we have seen leaf-drop as early as June/July.



## New Staff

Over the last couple of months, we have had a couple of changes to staff plus an addition in the office. Deb Blyth pulled back to only a couple of blocks some time ago as she needed to spend more time on their orchard. It has taken us a while to find someone to replace Deb. We initially took on a young graduate from BOP Polytech, Dave Henderson, who got offered a fulltime job only 1 month after we finished his training, so he disappeared. After some discussion, Cathy has now taken over most of Deb's blocks.



In Katikati North we have taken on Natasja de Graaf to help take some pressure off Jojetta. Natasja is studying to be a social worker, so with her study and monitoring, she is a busy lady.

Many of you will be familiar with one of our longest serving staff, Richard Carr. He came to us suddenly about a month ago and said he was leaving that day to take up the roll of pastor in a local church. Jojetta has had to step in and pick up the extra work, which with her teaching, has put a huge workload on her shoulders. Jo has been managing extremely well, but we realise this is too much for her to handle long-term.

Therefore we have taken on Carol Wesley to help in the Bethlehem to Te Puna area. Many of the growers Carol will be looking after have now met her. Her supervisor is Cathy, so if you have any concerns (which we are absolutely sure you won't), please contact Cathy on 544 2201 or 027 235 3919.

We have an addition in the office with Marise Stuart-Menzies helping David and Cathy. She was taken on as an Office Junior, but is already taking over many of Cathy's duties, allowing Cathy to spend more time in the field.

We will write some new profiles on the new staff for the next newsletter.

# ENQUIRE NOW



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



# HAPPY 4TH BIRTHDAY CROP CHECK

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