



“Working for the Grower”



Newsletter

February 2012

The Year Ahead

We have been taking special note of crop sizes as we have been into orchards over the past month with some interesting results. Many orchards initially seemed to have no fruit, but as in years past, as the fruit starts to size up, there is now a lot more fruit showing up.



The crop for the coming season will definitely be down on the past year, so for those that do have fruit, it is very wise to take good care of the fruit you have, as the payout should be better than this past season.

We have been to nearly all the blocks on our books and have found there are very few blocks with no fruit-set and about the same numbers with a heavy or moderate fruit-set. By far the largest percentage so far is the light fruit-set group with approximately 40% of growers in this group. We still have 15% of blocks still to visit, so these figures will change slightly.

Many of the blocks with large trees may well find all or most of your fruit is sitting at the top of the trees, which makes it difficult to monitor fruit. Never-the-less, if you intend to export, monitoring needs to continue.

This is an unusual season, as due to the heavy season last year and the severe frosts experienced in Te Puna, Te Puke and Opotiki areas, there were some orchards that had no flower at all, or what was there was burnt off by frost. We do not recall seeing that before, though I'm sure there will be some older orchardists whom have experienced this previously.



In conclusion, if you have no fruit, it is still advisable that you monitor occasionally to keep an eye on the insect life on your trees and if you do have fruit, you need to be increasing now to 2 weekly as Greenhouse thrip are starting to appear on young fruit now, along with the increase in tiny Leafroller under the calyx of the small fruit.

Website

We are trying to keep this updated on a regular basis. If there is anything you particularly would like on the website, please let us know. (www.cropcheck.co.nz)



Soil and Leaf testing

It is time again to consider soil and leaf samples; CropCheck staff are able to take soil and leaf samples whilst visiting your orchard for a monitoring. Our staff are able to collect the samples on their monitoring round and will send the samples by courier to the laboratory. We recommend R.J Hills Laboratory, whom we believe deliver the best quality service.

The “at cost” prices for leaf and soil testing are as follows:

Basic soil test \$53+GST

Basic leaf test \$75+GST

Basic soil test + Mehlich 3 [m3] \$75+GST

Surcharges (these will be added to your account along with the cost price of testing):

Samples taken during a pest monitoring visit:
\$25+GST

Outside of monitoring visits:
\$47 +GST



Fertiliser recommendations

We can give you a list of people who could do a diagnostic report that details the required fertiliser additions. Otherwise you can have results posted, faxed or emailed to you directly and make your own decisions.

Upcoming Field-days

Be on the watch for some interesting field-days coming up, especially those run by AIC. There was one in Northland last week about Biological Farming, which unfortunately we could not get to. We know Farmlands are organising another field-day shortly, which we're sure will be very informative. We will be at as many as we can get to, so look for us and please say hello.

Flower Growers

2-spotted mite are very prevalent at the moment, particularly with the hot, dry weather. The one positive of this weather is there will be little problems with mildew at the moment. We feel for you flower growers picking in the heat. There are some beautiful colours out there in the sheds. Keep up the good work.



Tamarillo Growers

How are the Psillids going? Tamarillo growers should be well into their spray program, which we trust is being effective. Monitoring is the best way to gauge whether the sprays are working. As with citrus, be on the watch for White Fly.

Citrus Growers

Kelly's Citrus Thrip numbers should be on the decrease now. Scale will have recently hatched and there are possibly some Citrus Red Mite about. White Fly eggs are being seen on citrus now.



Lemon Recipe

I was last week on the search for a lemon tea-cake recipe and came across this website. It's definitely worth checking out. And try this recipe; it is super easy and so yummy. www.blokeswhobake.co.nz.

Peachy Lemon Cake

175g Butter	3/4 cup sugar
Zest of 1 lemon	3 eggs
1 cup standard flour	1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup plain yoghurt	1 x 400g tin sliced peaches

Icing sugar for dusting

Get the oven up to 160C and get out the electric mixer. Prep a 23cm tin.

1. Cream the butter, sugar and lemon zest really well in the mixer until it's creamy.
2. Add the eggs one at a time and beat each one in thoroughly before adding the next.
3. Sift in the flour and baking powder and stir it through.
4. Set the mixer on low and pour in the yoghurt. Only mix till it's combined then stop.
5. Slop the whole lot into your cake tin and top with the drained peaches. You'll probably use nearly the whole tin, but not quite.

Bake for about 50—55 minutes.

When it has about 15 mins left to bake, brush on the lemon juice and sprinkle plain white sugar lightly over the top. Continue baking. Serve hot or cold, delicious.

Meet the CropCheck Team

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

Irene Remnant



Irene has had a long association with David and Cathy, having worked for them 25 years ago as their Office Manager, leaving to go and work with her husband in the travel industry, where she has been involved over the last 25 years. She has also known Ross Sheerin for many years.

In her roll as a partner in Cherrywood Travel, Irene was responsible for the administration and accounting side of the business, but also had the pleasure of accompanying husband Bruce over the last 15 years, on tours to many interesting places around the world. Together, Irene and Bruce plan and take small group tours overseas, plus run day trip outings for cruise ship passengers from Mt Maunganui.

Irene is the mother of three girls, the eldest two being twins, and grandmother to four grandchildren, two of which are also twins; it must run in the family!



Should you have any account or monitoring report enquiries, Irene is the invaluable member of the team that you well could get on the end of the phone.

I'm afraid this was the nearest we could get to Irene for a photo, she is very illusive when it comes to having her photo taken.

Farmlands Card Holders



We are now approved Farmlands Card Partners, so please let us know if you have a Farmlands Share-Holder name and Share-Holder number. All invoices will be then forwarded to Farmlands the following month.



ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Tamarillo Monitoring
AvoGreen Training

Grandchildrens sayings:

"Nanny, I hope Daddy has gone home", stated little miss.

"Why's that?" asked Nanny.

"Cos then I can stay with you for the night Nanny."

Another story:

"Look Nanny, I've squashed another fly."

What can you say to that?



(Many of us are grandparents, how about some of your cute stories?)

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