



“Working for the Grower”



Newsletter
August 2012

From the Directors

Hasn't it been firstly cold and then very wet out there? As we have driven around, we have noticed some quite severe frost damage in some places, and it doesn't look like we are finished winter yet with more forecast rain and cold weather coming. We hope your orchards are draining all right and the trees are not suffering too much from the rain.

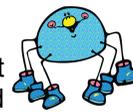
This has been an extremely bad season for everyone, a fact that we are sure you don't need us to remind you of. There are around 1/3 of blocks that are going to have fruit to export in the Bay of Plenty, 1/3 with only a small crop which will go to local market and 1/3 of blocks that have nothing at all. Jojette and Cathy cannot remember a year quite so bad, though some of the long term growers may remember differently.

Recently, Jojette and Cathy attended a Refresher day for Trainer's at the AIC offices where there was some useful discussion about the changes to the AvoGreen protocol. Mostly, the changes are designed to make the programme more secure and workable, in particular, simplifying the way Leafroller are calculated to make this easier for the monitors in the field.

The restrictions to the spray times are to avoid the situation where a grower will have a monitor and use that report months later to justify a spray even though the pests on that report may have changed in number and variety since. Also the ruling should encourage spray contractors to get to an orchard in a more timely manner for follow-up Thrip sprays.

One other change has come out of the meeting; growers are now required to state a start date for monitoring and how many monitors they intend to have done in the year. The recommended industry minimum is 4 monitorings and if you go by our recommendations on our calendar, that would be up to 19 monitorings in a full year. This figure is an indication of your intention to monitor and can be increased, but not decreased without a good justification, such as no fruit. This is an audit requirement.

Talking changes, we will be printing and sending out the Orchard Contract—"Schedule" to everyone. We ask that you please check the Schedule, make any changes and get them back in the enclosed envelopes as quickly as possible. We are expecting our next audit shortly and the up to date Schedule's along with the latest Calendar's are what the auditors are checking to make sure you are compliant for export.



Six Spotted Mite

As anticipated, Six spotted mite are in some orchards in big numbers and are causing some leaf drop. This is a very unpredictable insect in the Bay of Plenty, as it has not been seen here in large numbers until 2 years ago. There have been isolated orchards with Six spot causing leaf drop seen previously, but not in large numbers like we are seeing now. Two years ago, the worst affected orchards were seen in the Kati-kati South area around Walkers Road East with very little seen in the Tauranga/Te Puke areas. In Spring 2011, numbers of Six spot were high in the Pyes Pa, Oropi, Te Puna areas, plus we saw an orchard in Opotiki that was heavily infected.

Six spotted mite was first discovered in the Bay of Plenty about 2001 by one of the staff at Fruitfed. Cathy and Jojette remember having to use quarantine procedures when going from one orchard to another and if we found any Six spot, we were required to pick leaves and take them into the Fruitfed office for senior staff to confirm that we were indeed finding the tiny critters. By about 2005, Six spot had become wide spread and was found throughout the Bay.

Six spotted mite are an unusual mite in that they do not like hot dry conditions like other mites do. Instead, they prefer warm, moist conditions with a complete life cycle taking between 11 and 30 days (shortest times are at 30°C) to develop. Their eggs will not hatch and live if the temperature is below 13°C

Below is some interesting scientific information from HortResearch. (http://www.nzpps.org/journal/CO/nzpp_600720.pdf). The full report is very interesting.

“Six-spotted mite (*Eotetranychus sexmaculatus*) is a key pest of avocados in New Zealand. Six-spotted feeding on leaves can cause excessive leaf drop and a subsequent reduction in tree productivity and yield. Six-spotted mite development, longevity and fecundity were determined at six constant temperatures (10, 13, 18, 21, 25, 30°C) on avocado leaf discs. No larvae hatched from eggs at 10°C. The number of days to complete egg development time (egg to adult) ranged from 5.3 days at 30°C to 23.9 days at 13°C. Total development time (egg to adult) ranged from 29.6 days at 18°C to 11 days at 30°C. Mean adult longevity ranged from 18.8 days at 30°C to 41.4 days at 18°C. The number of eggs laid per female ranged from 6.9 to 20.9.”



Tamarillo Growers

It is time to think about signing up for monitoring tamarillo's, to start in early November. Monitoring should be carried out every 2 weeks from the beginning of November so you are aware when the Psyllid's arrive and thereafter every 3-4 weeks to check that your sprays are being effective.



Citrus Growers

This is a quiet time of year, with not much happening. A quick reminder to be on the watch for scale in August.

Flower Growers

No change here much, though there may be some early bugs starting to appear on the hydrangea's.

Olive Growers

We mentioned Peacock Spot in the last newsletter and on more enquiry have been told by growers that it is not as big a problem as a scientist told us it could be. Please discuss this with us if you don't agree.

Recipe

Did you try the Peachy Lemon Cake from the last newsletter? We would love to hear some feedback on some of your recipes.

CANADIAN FAIR CAKE Paul & Chris Bellair

Base:

2 cups flour, 225g butter, 125g sugar
Rub together, roll out and line bottom and sides of tin

Filling:

2 eggs	1 cup chopped dates
1 cup sugar	3/4 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup coconut	1/2 tsp baking powder
2 tsp cocoa	3 tsp flour
1/4 cup milk	vanilla
1/2 tsp salt	



Add all ingredients to beaten eggs. Pour into lined tin. sprinkle with walnuts (chopped). Bake slowly (180C.)

Soil and Leaf testing

It is getting very late in the season for soil tests; if you intend to have one done, please contact us asap. The easiest way is by visiting our website and registering: www.cropcheck.co.nz/soiltest



Weather Stations

As you will have seen on our last newsletter, we have a weather station at our office in Ohauti. This is online at www.ohautiweather.co.nz and is available for anyone to view the local weather, plus links to forecasts and weather warnings. There are currently 2 weather stations linked to the website, ours, plus one in Te Puke belonging to our website developer.

We would love to have other weather stations linked in, so if you have an electronic weather station and would like to be part of our network, please contact David on 544 2201 or Brendan on 929 7604. We are particularly looking for a weather station in the Katikati area as Val Baker's team from Trevelyan's Packhouse are working out in the Katikati area for KVH and would love to know what the Katikati weather is doing before they leave Te Puke.

Staff Changes

We have had sad news this week; Irene has just returned from 5 weeks in Italy taking a tour with her husband Bruce and while they were away, they had the chance to discuss the future of their tour business. Irene has made the decision to join Bruce in their business, so is leaving us at the end of next week to undertake the training required for their cruise ship tours. This gives David and Cathy a real sense of déjà vu as the last time Irene left us was to go and help Bruce in his travel agency, Cherrywood Travel.

David particularly, is going to miss you heaps, Irene, and just to let you know, you are very welcome back any time. You have been an amazing asset to our business.

For now, Cathy and David will be taking over the administration.



ENQUIRE NOW



Monitoring: *Avocado*
Tamarillo
Flowers
Citrus
Other
AvoGreen Training

Savings:

Rain, rain go away
Come again another day



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