



“Working for the Grower”



A Psocid Juvenile; these can be confused with a Greenhouse thrip juvenile.

Photograph by JustShootIT Photographics

Newsletter February 2014

From the Office

Our staff are very busy now that growers are mostly monitoring fortnightly. If we seem tardy getting back to you about anything, please feel free to ring or text and remind us. You may have had the same problem with others involved in the industry during the busy harvest season and now that thrip are prevalent in orchards, spray contractors are under more pressure.

We have changed our phone systems in the office and have no answer phone message at present. You are still able to leave a message, which is emailed to us along with your phone number.

Owner/Operator Refresher Training

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



Training to be an Owner Operator

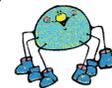
See our website for details and call Cathy or Jojette to register interest or ask further questions.



BUG UPDATE:

Six-spotted mite

As predicted, numbers of mites have naturally dropped to near zero, due to the heat. We are however seeing some mites about accompanied by good numbers of Stethorus ladybirds, which are their main predator.



Scale

Blocks that haven't been sprayed much are showing a few scale on old fruit. If your reject analysis from this season's harvest shows scale, you can use this to justify 1 scale spray without a monitoring after harvest.

Leafroller

Leafroller are growing fast and getting more difficult to kill, now that they are sheltered between fruit or webbed and rolled up in leaves. The worst damage has already been done on many orchards when fruit were small, but it is still possible for large holes to be chewed in fruit.



For those of you with most of your crop out of reach from the ground, we suggest you hire/borrow a raised platform of some sort, and bring down infested fruit to your monitor when he/she visits. These infestations can be added to the monitoring sheet, if collected at the time of a monitoring round. Fortunately, fruit set seems to be good on lower branches this season. It is very hard to give an accurate monitoring picture when all of the fruit is out of reach.

Greenhouse Thrip

Due to the warm moist weather, thrip are now exploding in number. We are seeing blocks that have had no thrip, then within 5-10 days, they are up to 30+%. It is highly advisable that you spray asap when you reach threshold and don't wait until you are well over.

Therefore, contact your spray contractor **as soon as you can** after an over threshold result. Remember to order your second spray at the time of ordering the first spray. The second spray is necessary to kill emerging young that are **protected** from spray because eggs are laid under the skin. The second thrip spray should be applied 10-14 days (or no more than 21 days) after the first, and requires no monitoring to justify it.

A **monitoring is only current for 28 days**, meaning that the **first** thrip spray must be applied within 28 days of a monitoring. If you have a very low level of thrips, and decide not to spray yet. you are strongly advised to monitor again a week later. These creatures multiply fast and damage large areas of fruit fast!



Recipe

Avocado Dream Salad

I haven't tried this, but it sounds so good, I will do so. I imagine other mixes of fruit would do just as well.

1 large avocado
2 kiwifruit chopped
2 mangoes chopped 2 bananas chopped
1 small pawpaw (approx 2 cups chopped)
Juice 1 orange 3 passionfruit
Toasted coconut shreds for garnish

Toss all fruit together gently with orange juice. Spoon into bowls and top with Avocado Dream Cream. Garnish with toasted shredded coconut.

AVOCADO DREAM CREAM

1 avocado 2 bananas
1 tsp honey 1/2 cup water or fruit juice
Blend all ingredients in a blender or food processor until smooth, adding a little extra water or juice if too stiff. Allow cream to be fairly thick as it does not need to have a pouring consistency.
Serves 4.

Pests in Other Crops

As with avocado, insects are very busy in citrus, hydrangeas, Tamarillo's and feijoa's. Leafroller will attack all crops and Greenhouse thrip are making their presence felt in citrus.

Psyllid's are still feeding on Tamarillo's; it is very wise to monitor for these nasties to make sure your spray is being effective.

Feijoa's are a crop that is reasonably pest resistant, but scale and Leafroller are the major pests. In Northland Guava Moth are becoming a problem.



Monitoring Plan Calendars

If you haven't signed and returned your Monitoring Plan to us, and have CropCheck do your monitoring, you may be deemed non-compliant for Avogreen. During an audit, your calendar is checked against the number of monitorings you have in a year, so we need these in our possession for audits.

For those who have lost or not returned the A4 Calendar sent last August, please phone the office as soon as possible.



Records of monitoring

For GAP auditing, prior to harvest, you will need to have kept your monitoring records, along with proof that you have a monitoring plan agreement with an Operator.

If you need copies of your monitoring records, please contact the office. They can be emailed to you. A small fee may apply, so keeping your own records when we first send you the monitoring results, is the best idea. Maps are also available from our office for a charge of \$25 + GST.

Pruning

Both Cathy and Jojette have been to some of the recent field-days which have been talking about pruning. There are many schools of thought regarding the best methods. Our comments are; think about working towards a tree that is easy to monitor, spray, and pick, as this will reduce your costs and reduce risk of pest outbreak. Being a heavy crop year, this may be a good year to cut some trees back to encourage crop next year, and take some of the stress off the trees now.



ENQUIRE NOW



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

Something to chuckle over

Recently one of the team was informed by a grower that the shot holes in the leaves on his avocado trees are not made by boron deficiency but by dragonflies. Dragonflies are carnivores.



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