



“Working for the Grower”

**Happy 1st
Birthday CropCheck**



April Newsletter

Welcome

Hi everyone. Our intention is to put out a newsletter every two months unless there is any new information available, as there is this month. There are two important articles to draw your attention to, the article on thrip and our new soil testing service.



Greenhouse Thrip Outbreak

This summer has seen many cases of rapid increase in numbers of Greenhouse Thrip often re-infesting and over threshold within 2 weeks of a spray. We advise growers that as soon as Greenhouse Thrip levels are on or above the 2% threshold, that they contact their spray contractor immediately, and order a back to back spray (the second spray being between 10 and 14 days after the first) to catch any hatching eggs.

If your sprayer is as busy as most sprayers are this season, at least you are put on the waiting list. Best practice is to monitor again in 1 week if a spray has not yet been applied or if levels are at but not over threshold. In the case of a monitoring showing 2% Greenhouse Thrip, a follow up monitor 1 week later may reveal numbers over threshold and often much higher. If you contact your spray contractor again at this stage, the higher levels should place your orchard closer to priority for a spray.

Make sure you contact your spray contractor early to avoid waiting when numbers are very high.

Another worry is that neighbouring shelter is still harbouring adult thrip, which blow or fly into the avocado trees around the edge of the block. This way, even 2 weeks after a spray, only adults, not juvenile Greenhouse Thrip are found. CropCheck Ltd suggests that in these cases shelters surrounding avocado blocks should also be sprayed.

Greenhouse Thrip do not die off in cold weather. They will continue to feed and cause damage, albeit a little slower. Hopefully, if sprays have been applied and are effective, Greenhouse Thrip will no longer be a problem after the end of April. However, if you still have any Greenhouse Thrip at the end of April, those numbers will remain or increase slowly over the cooler months, and continue to damage your fruit. CropCheck Ltd then advises you continue to monitor 2-3 weekly until levels have dropped to 2% or less. After this, monthly monitoring should reveal whether numbers are still rising.



Soil Testing

Are you aware that “Soil testing should be done every 2-3 years” and “should be carried out at least 3 - 5 months after your last fertiliser application and about 1 month before your next application.” (<http://www.ravensdown.co.nz/Resources/Why+soil+test+and+fertilise/Soil+and+Herbage+Testing.htm>)



If you have not done a soil test on your orchard recently, now is the time to be doing that and getting your report in time to order fertilisers and get your programme under way before flowering.

We are looking into providing soil testing, so please contact us if you are interested in having us do your soil testing for you.

Maps

For our recent AIC audit, we prepared maps for all the orchards on our books. These are available to you at a cost of \$25 plus GST. They take us some time to prepare and we make sure everything is on the map that is required under the AvoGreen protocol.

Website

Have you checked our website? It is being updated and changed regularly, with new information added frequently. We are trying to make it as informative as possible, with up-to-date Pest Alerts, our latest Newsletters, information for Owner/Operators and much, much more. Please contact us if you have anything of particular interest you would like us to put on the website (within reason that is). www.cropcheck.co.nz

Winter Monitoring

It's that time of year when pest numbers start to drop off and monitoring will slow down. Please be aware that under AvoGreen, you cannot spray without a monitor first. This is different from the past, when you could put a cleanup spray on during winter without monitoring. CropCheck recommends maintaining monthly monitoring during this period as pests will still be present and could well be damaging your crop. In the past growers have had a nasty surprise when they resume monitoring after Spring flowering and there is a huge amount of damage particularly from leafroller that have snuck in through the winter months.



Monitoring Reports

Again a little note about our reports. These are constantly changing as we go through a growth and development phase, trying to make the reports as clear as we can for you, the growers and also for our staff to work with. Our in-field monitoring sheets have also changed recently, so if your monitor leaves a copy for you, the information should now be clearer e.g. whether a scale is found on leaf or fruit or a Greenhouse Thrip is an adult or juvenile. We welcome any further suggestions.

Flower Growers



At last the weather is starting to cool down, so the Two Spot numbers will now drop off.

Citrus Growers

It's scale time again for citrus, with numbers present now. White fly have been a continual problem this season and we have been seeing more Greenhouse thrip than usual. Also now is the time to be watching for Citrus Red Mite.

Avocado Recipe

Passionfruit Avocado and Yoghurt Flan

<u>Pastry</u>	<u>Filling</u>	
200 g flour	3 eggs	
50 g desiccated coconut	5 tbsp honey	
1 tbsp sugar	1 tsp vanilla	
125 g soft butter	1 1/2 cups natural yoghurt	
Apple juice or water to moisten	2 large avocados, mashed	
	4 large passionfruit	

Mix flour, coconut and sugar. Cut in butter with long-bladed knife and rub with fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add enough apple juice or water to make dough come together.

Form a ball, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before using.

To make the filling, beat eggs, honey, vanilla and yoghurt. Mix mashed avocados and passionfruit pulp into egg mix.

Pour into prepared pastry case and bake at 180c for about 30 min until just set. Cool and serve with whipped cream, extra passionfruit sprinkled with cinnamon or nutmeg.

Meet the CropCheck Team

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



Cathy Harris

Cathy followed Jojette into the voluntary AvoGreen program in 2002, quickly learning about avocado's. Though she had not worked with avocado's before, she had come from a kiwifruit background, and there again only doing one season in a packhouse, but having also pruned, pollinated and picked on her parents 10 acre orchard in Pyes Pa.

She has had an interesting work life, from nursing to teaching singing, with about fifteen years in-between as a director in a computer company, taking responsibility for staff and sales. It was during this time, Irene (our office administrator) first worked for David and Cathy.

Cathy spent some time home-schooling her primary aged children, re-igniting a passion to take her music teaching further. At the age of 47, Cathy made a brave decision to go to university and study towards a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Music, something she has recently completed extramurally through Massey University. She is finding it hard to believe that after many years studying, she is now awaiting her graduation in May.

Married for 34 years at the end of this month, to David, and mother to three adult daughters and grandmother to one beautiful 4 year old grand-daughter, who is her little friend and helper, Cathy lives a very full life with family, teaching singing in 3 schools and working full-time in the Crop Check office (which is in her house), out in the field monitoring plus visiting growers.



Wanted

Does anyone know of a piece of land (preferably about 1-2 acres) with no covenants for about \$200,000? Or a property with good sheds, a 2-3 bedroom cottage and an outside room or rumpus room suitable for our office for about \$300,000? Please phone our office (544 2201) and ask for David or Cathy.

ENQUIRE NOW



Avocado Monitoring
Citrus Monitoring
Flower Monitoring
Monitoring Training

The Avocado Season - a progressive poem

Thrip please go away
As colder nights stay
And summer falls
Into winter rest

(Checkout the full poem on our website.)



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