

NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023

“Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards”

From the Office



Photo: Chinese Wax Juvenile Scale

Greetings from the office. We hope you are enjoying the new newsletter format, thanks to the skills of Jes.

David has now had his heart valve replacement operation in Waikato after an eventful journey. He is still recovering, looking fine, but is very tired still. We understand this is normal and will take at least 6 weeks for the tiredness to go.

We have been working on adjustments to our pricing as David has been able too. This has taken far longer than intended and we would like to apologise for the delay. When you have had time to digest our new pricing for avocado monitoring and made a decision on how you wish to proceed, we ask that you communicate your decision with the CropCheck office as soon as possible. This will enable us to plan staffing levels.

Please note that our price increases do not apply to blueberry growers. We have not reviewed your charges at this point. We may look at them before the next season starts. Meanwhile, you can relax and enjoy the quieter months ahead.

BUG UPDATES

• Leafroller

We have been finding some tiny Leafrollers on fruit, plus some live Leafroller eggrafts. They are unlikely to do the significant damage they have on the young fruitlets, but can still cause scarring on fruit as it matures.

• NZ Flower Thrip

These insects have mostly disappeared now but will reappear as Autumn or Winter flowering starts.

• Six Spotted Mite

These mites are starting to appear again, but so far in lower numbers. With the harder Thrip sprays going on now, they will probably increase.

• Mealybug

Mealybug are being seen in low numbers. They should disappear as the hard Thrip sprays are being applied.

• Scale

As with the Mealybug, Scale will disappear with the use of hard sprays.

Reminder: Some sprays now have a 180 day withholding period.

• Greenhouse Thrip

Greenhouse Thrip are around in higher numbers now. Many orchards with fruit have already applied Calypso and other harder sprays. Watch for the return of Thrip in April or May.

• Fullers Rose Weevil (FRW) damage and live

Damage from FRW is being seen and the occasional live insect is also being found.

• Natural Predators

With less sprays being applied, these may build up in the orchards, but may not have a significant effect on pests yet.

• Blueberry Pests

It is now coming up to the last picks for the season. As you all know, it has been a difficult season for many growers. We have survived and look forward to a much better season next year.

It has been a huge blessing having Argine based in Hamilton and able to monitor early morning or evenings. She is currently away on holiday overseas, but will be back and working with the blueberries again next season.

If you know of anyone who could be suitable to help us with monitoring next season, please get them to contact the office. It is good to have staff based in Waikato, as it reduces the mileage costs for growers.



Photo: Oribatid Mite found on blueberries. They usually live in the soil.

Please note:

Even though we have good knowledge in insects, we cannot advise you to stop spraying and use only predators. We also cannot advise you what chemicals to spray. Please work with your industry advisers for best advice.



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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

It is our 13th birthday on the 9th of April. Maybe it's time to celebrate with a coffee meeting in a local café in your area. We will let you know of plans in the next month.



BLUESKYDATA LTD

Cathy and Jes have been working on the re-launching of BlueSkyData. We provide web design, website updates, web hosting and fibre internet connections. We would love to hear from you if you need help with websites or internet. For more information, please visit our website at <https://blueskydata.nz>



RURAL SUPPORT

Did anyone get to the meetings at the beginning of March? We wanted to go, but the meeting at Karapiro clashed with David's operation.

SAFETY NEWS

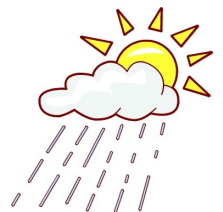
Dopey bees at this time of year can be a safety issue. Cathy got stung last week in a blueberry block by a dopey bee passenger riding on her ankle.

Sprays are being applied frequently at the moment. Please let us know if you are spraying or if neighbours are spraying when we are due to enter your orchard. We could delay our entry until the neighbours spraying has finished.



WEATHER EVENTS

It looks like we have missed Summer this year and have moved straight into Autumn. The weather is beautiful now, with lovely warm sunny days. The grass is still growing though, so the quieter days with no mowing have not happened. Nevertheless, it's lovely weather to be out and about.



Clipart source: GraphicsFactory.com



Need a monitoring specialist or know someone who does? Let's chat!

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