

NEWSLETTER



February 2023

“Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards”



Image of Aphid on Blueberries

From the Office

This is a very brief newsletter this month, breaking with the tradition of a lot of information in our bi-monthly newsletter.

Many of us are going through some tough times at the moment, with frost in early October which severely affected the Blueberry crop, rain and cold weather which severely affected the Avocado fruit set and now endless rain and flooding. To top that off for us, David was at the hospital last week with Cellulitis infection and still recovering at home.

This wet weather has greatly affected our ability to get out and monitor greatly. Our staff have been wonderful at getting out as soon as it is dry enough, but there hasn't been much dry about. So if you are China registered, please contact your monitor in plenty of time to arrange a monitor.

We have sadly said goodbye to Miaki and Shirley. Both have been offered jobs in other sectors, with pay rates far beyond what we are able to offer them. We wish them well, and if you know or are a New Zealand qualified monitor and would like some work, please contact Cathy at 027-235-3919.

BUG UPDATES

• Leafroller

Leafroller are around still. You now need a monitoring report to justify a spray. Even with a low crop, you should be considering whether there is enough fruit to justify one spray for Leafroller and Thrip now. That will help protect any young fruit you have, if not already damaged.

• NZ Flower Thrip

There are very few around at this time of year.

• Six Spotted Mite

Six Spotted Mites are being seen in low numbers. Will need to watch as the harder Thrip sprays go on.

• Mealybug

These bugs are around in low numbers, so are not being recorded. As they are one of the Scale family, we expect to see them increasing now—December to January and March to April.

• Scale

Scales are increasing a little, as they do at this time of years. When the Thrip sprays are applied, Scale should disappear.

• Greenhouse Thrip

Thrip are appearing on new fruit now, though not many yet. We are expecting that when the sun comes out in the next few days, the number of Thrip will explode. If you have fruit, our advice is, get monitoring done asap.

• Fullers Rose Weevil (FRW) damage and live

We are seeing damage from Fullers now on trees.

• Natural Predators

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

• Blueberry Pests

With we are finding a number of mites both in the field and under microscope. Most are Tydeid or Oribatid (which are both in the good mite category), but have also found Six spotted mite and other tiny mites that we have not been able to identify as yet.

If you are exporting, you will need to be aware that there are mites, no matter what the species, and take action.

Thrips and Leafroller are also present, but not in high numbers. We did, however, find a minute Leafroller on a fruit under the microscope. That would also be picked up at the border and be fumigated.

If you have sprayed fungicides, please let us know and we will time our visits suitably.



This is an image of Fullers Rose Weevil and the damage they do on avocado leaves.





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STAFF WANTED

CropCheck are looking for monitors in the Te Puna to Katikati area. If you are qualified and interested in part-time work, please call Cathy on **027-235-3919** or email on cathy@cropcheck.co.nz



RURAL SUPPORT

I received an email this morning from Rural Support announcing some meeting with Matt Chisholm, coming up in Taupo on 1 March and Karapiro on 2 March. If you would like details please contact me (Cathy) and I will forward the details. If you are struggling and would like someone to chat to, you are welcome to call **0800 787 254**. This is a free service offered to the rural community.

SAFETY NEWS



By far the biggest issue is the weather and the sodden ground conditions. Please let your monitor know if there are areas they should avoid walking or driving on your property.

With the berry blocks, many of you already have drains around your blocks. As I'm sure you are aware, rust and fungal diseases are a problem. Please let us know when you apply spray and when you need a monitor.

WEATHER EVENTS



This last few weeks have been one big weather event. What an awful Summer so far? We are trying to get out to monitor and it has been raining constantly. I'm sure you don't need to be reminded? How are your trees surviving? It's a good idea to drain water away from the trees as they don't like wet feet, especially the avocados trees.

The good news from the weather forecasters; this rain is fading away from the North Island and we should be moving into some dryer weather.

Some clipart by GraphicsFactory.com



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

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