



“Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards”



Possibly a Little Log Cabin Bag Moth?

**Newsletter
June 2022**

From the Office

David has finally had his Heart procedures completed at Waikato Hospital, they were successful and he is now recovering well, able to return to some gentle exercise and work. Cathy is now able to get back to working more in the business. Both David and Cathy are very appreciative of our awesome staff for holding the fort for us during this time.

As outlined in the last Newsletter increased costs for Staff wages plus other increased costs of operations have left us no option but to increase charges. We have set the increase at \$6.00 + GST per 10 Tree Monitor equivalent. Our rate for hourly charges has also increased by \$6.00 per hour + GST. This was originally set to take effect of 1st April 2022 but will now be effective from 1st July 2022. Please take the delay as our gift to you. If you are struggling please remember that we are available, willing to talk and help if we can, please get in touch.

Maximum Residue Limits & Pre-Harvest Intervals

Have you read the emails from NZ Avocado about changes to spray with-holding periods? There are changes to withholding periods for some of the chemicals you may have used recently. Please check the NZ Avocado website for details or speak to your pack-house about the changes. There are measures in place to allow you to harvest your crop.

China Growers

If you are still compliant for China, please keep in touch with our staff to make sure they are aware when they need to get in for re-monitoring or of any sprays that you have applied. This especially applies with this unsettled weather. If you want to remain compliant for China, please make sure your monitor knows when you need them to come in to monitor.

We have a new office companion called Tupence. She is full of mischief and a good companion for Tinsy.



Bug Update—Avocados

Leafroller - As we enter winter, there is an increase of Leafroller. The numbers are not as high as in Spring, but are doing some damage to fruit.

Greenhouse Thrip – Most orchards are clear of Thrip if they have been sprayed. If no spray has been applied, Thrip are still being seen. Because many orchards have a low crop this year, we are aware the decision may have been made to avoid spraying. If so the pack out is more likely to be low, meaning less financial return. Monitoring is essential to know what is there but the cost of spraying needs to be carefully considered as it could make a small crop unprofitable.

NZ Flower Thrip - This is still only found occasionally.

Six Spotted Mite - We have been seeing some leaf drop and numbers of mites have been building, but so far, numbers are staying at moderate levels, however, this could change quickly. If you have applied back to back Thrip sprays in the April/May months, you could possibly have a problem with mites. Ask for more frequent (3 weekly) monitoring if you are concerned.

Scale - Numbers have dropped post Thrip spray period. Blocks that haven't sprayed for Thrip could see Scale still present.

Fullers Rose weevil (FRW) damage and live - It is now past the FRW period, though there may be some old damage still present. Young trees are showing signs of Fullers and Bronze beetle damage.

Mealybug - Mealybug have mostly disappeared after the thrip sprays have been applied.

Natural Predators—Low numbers of predators are being seen in orchards. To build up numbers, you could buy in some predators from Bioforce or Zonda. Planting out your headlands or areas around your orchard with plants that attract beneficial insects can also be helpful. Caz has a good knowledge of plants that are wise to plant out. I understand Yarrow is a good predator insect host plant.

Soil Test Time—It is now getting too late for soil tests. Contact us now if you still want a test and we can get there asap.



Safety News



With all the wet weather, hazards on orchards to watch out for are wet ground, rotting dropped fruit, and plant material, which are slip hazards. Many of our staff have recently upgraded their boots to non slip.

Please notify us of any sprays applied in all crops. Our re-entry period is 14 days after a spray. This is for 2 reasons;

1. To reduce our staff exposure to sprays.
2. We cannot get a clear picture of spray effectiveness until some time after application. Our experience shows that 14 days is a good gap after spraying.

NOTE: if Paramite has been applied, the time to next monitor needs to be 28 days. This chemical is long acting and will give us an inaccurate picture any earlier than this.

Blueberries—the season has now finished and pruning is under way, followed by clean up sprays and fungicides. If you do not have a spray program, we would encourage you to contact an advisor. If you have never sprayed, it could be a good idea to have a monitor, plus talk to your packhouse, to see if you have an insect problem. This is particularly important if you are exporting as Australia are being very hard on ANY insects found in fruit coming from New Zealand.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were sending samples of Springtail to Rob Silberbauer for identification confirmation. He confirmed our identification, speaking also to a Professor of Entomology at Massey University. We have since sent samples to MPI for DNA species identification.

Springtail are definitely a fungal feeder or scavenger, often finding them in decaying plant material. Therefore they will most likely be moved to the Beneficial status for next season.

The Springtail we are finding are similar to these. They are fast moving and can easily be mis-identified as Thrip.



Weather events

How have you survived the storms we have been having? The weather has been quite unsettled recently with flooding and high winds. I'm sure we don't need to tell you that. With all the fruit on the ground and the wind rub on the next seasons fruit, you will be all too aware of the effects of the bad weather.

Are your trees showing stress from the rain? They may be dropping leaves; if they are, ask your monitor to check that there are no mites.

Have you seen the amazingly bright sunrises and sunsets? The vivid colours & brightness is caused by the abnormal level of moisture that was injected into the upper Stratosphere & Mesosphere 30-60 Km above the earths surface following the recent Tongan eruption. NASA predict that the eruption could reduce temperatures by half a degree over the next 2-3 years, worldwide.

Road Markers by Cathy Harris



Like soldiers
Standing tall
Lines straight or curved
One metre gaps they stand

Tossed aside
By wind
From trucks swirling turbulence
Snatching, sucking, toppling.

Stood tall
By fluro workers
Marking paths for vehicles
Round potholes, roadworks, nothing.

By day
Orange, new
Old, dull and dented
Smudged by dirt of time,



By night
Reflector white
Dazzling in head lights
The ever stretching line of road soldiers.

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.

ENQUIRE NOW

Crop Monitoring



Avocado
Citrus
Blueberries
Export Flowers
Other Crops
Soil & Leaf Tests



Tropical Army
Worm eggraft

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