



“Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards”



Green Lacewing Eggs

Newsletter October 2022

From the Office

I was reading the last newsletter before I started to write this one and reflecting on the last couple of months; they have gone by in a whirl. There have been more meetings online and many emails, plus the Blueberry Conference in the middle of September in Hamilton.

Cathy had the pleasure of speaking at the Blueberry Conference. There was a good range of interesting speakers, covering everything from border pest incursions into Australia (which is a hot topic right now) to the mental wellbeing of growers. The friendly atmosphere at the conference was lovely, with many growers coming to say hello.

We have employed a lovely lady, Shirley Day, who is an experienced Avogreen Monitor. She will be helping Caz for now, plus we will be training her to monitor Blueberries, starting this week.

China Growers

Are you still compliant for China? Please let us know if you are not. With the continual wet weather, we have been struggling to get to all blocks and we need to give priority to the China blocks.

Avogreen Registration

Registrations are now open to all Avocado growers. Please call into the office with your Avogreen Folder and we will update your records, give any new information you need, a coffee and piece of cake.

If you do not have an Avogreen folder, please let us know and we will make you up one. There is a cost of \$49 plus gst for current growers, to cover the cost of the folder and printing.



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.



Bug Update—Avocados

Leafroller - As the flush starts on the avocados, we expect to see an increase in the number of Leafroller present in the young shoots. There has been an increase in live Leafroller eggrafts and we have been seeing a lot of hatched eggrafts.

Greenhouse Thrip – thrip are still being found, though not in a high number of sites. Where we are finding juvenile Thrip on fruit, there can be a high number on each site though. Numbers will start to climb in mid January, or earlier if the weather is hot and moist.

NZ Flower Thrip - we will be seeing these Thrip now as flowers open on the avocado's.

Six Spotted Mite - we are coming into flowering now, the pressure time for mites. If you have sprayed over the last 6 months for Thrip, have you monitored for mites recently? You have probably missed the window for taking action for mites, if you have not sprayed before now. With the bees in the orchard, you are advised **not** to spray until they are removed.

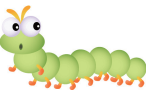
Scale - there has not been a noticeable increase in Scale yet, but we are expecting that to happen with the decrease in Thrip sprays.

Fullers Rose weevil (FRW) damage and live - some FRW chewing is being seen now, plus Bronze Beetle chewing is around. The later will probably be seen mostly over the next month, then should disappear.

Mealybug - could increase in the next few weeks. As they are one of the Scale family, we expect to see them increasing at the same time of year—December-January, March-April.

Natural Predators—one of the speakers at the Blueberry Conference, was Chris Thompson from Bioforce. He has a good knowledge of predators and their use in orchards to control pests. If you have questions, please contact Chris for information.

NOTE: introducing predators into an orchard that has very high pest numbers, does not often work, as it takes a long time to get high enough predator numbers to make any significant difference. Using Biological control, needs to be done along side other controls.



Safety News



Wet ground continues to be a major hazard for everyone. Especially with machinery in the orchard for picking, there will be extra risks of slipping on wet ground, tripping in holes caused by machinery or tripping on fallen, half buried fruit.

Bees are also a hazard at this time of year, especially after they have been disturbed, or hives have been moved, if that is during the daylight hours.

No sprays should be going on now. If you do spray, including weedkiller, please let your monitor know before they enter the orchard. Are you putting pink dye in your weedkiller so we can see where you have been? This helps us to avoid the sprayed areas and not get the chemical on our legs. This is especially relevant when the weather is hot and we are wearing shorts.

Blueberries—The Blueberry Conference and Field -days were a good opportunity to meet many of you and have some good discussions. We appreciate the opportunity to learn from the experienced growers and to meet people within the industry, we have not had the opportunity to meet before.

David, Caz and myself attended the conference, arriving later than intended, after being delayed on the Kaimai's due to a tractor catching fire. This meant we missed Liz's welcome.

All of the speakers were interesting, covering a good deal of valuable information. Of particular interest for us, were the presentations from MPI and Stephen Oden, looking at market access.

At the end of the conference, we took part in the round table discussion chaired by Rob Silberbauer, looking at standardising blueberry monitoring. After many follow-up emails and discussion, we are all now fairly happy with the protocol that has been emailed out to all growers in the last few days, from BBNZ. We are changing our systems to reflect these changes, which should decrease your monitoring costs per visit, but increase your frequency of monitoring from 4 weekly to 2 weekly. This applies to all export blocks.

We have developed a Monitoring Request form, which will be distributed to everyone. We will also be requiring a basic contract, giving us permission to share monitoring reports with BBNZ to research insect numbers and trends. Cathy will talk to you further when she visits next.

Weather events



The rain has been continuous. We were in the Waikato the last week of September and were shown the water table; it is only centimetres below ground level.

The bees have been struggling to work in this weather. We have been seeing the bumble bees working in the Waikato, though they have even been struggling some days.

Avogreen© Registration

Now is the time to register for Avogreen.

Where: CropCheck office, 424 Upper Ohauti Rd, Ohauti, Tauranga

When: 9am till 6pm Monday to Friday

Bring: Avogreen© Folder (contact us to make you one if you need it)

If you can't make the above times, please contact us for alternative arrangements.

Change of Identification

For many years, we have been told that one of the predator insects we have been finding, is an Agistemus. Recently our identification was questioned and we have discovered the insect we have known as an Agistemus, is indeed a **Bdellidae** or **Snout Mite**. We will be changing this on our documentation.



ENQUIRE NOW

Crop Monitoring



Avocado
Citrus
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Avogreen© Registrations Open now



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