

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2023

"Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards"



Photo: Green Lacewing Juvenile

From the Office

We are now over the quiet period and getting busier and busier as the berry season gets underway plus avocado growers are requesting pre-flowering and pre-harvest monitoring.

On our quieter times, we have been catching up on gardening and planning ahead for the next season, writing a Blueberry Training program and trying to find new staff for Blueberry monitoring. We will also be attending the Blueberry Conference at the start of October.

Now is the time to start signing up for the next seasons of AvoGreen registration. Please see below for details. It would be very helpful if you can get the registrations done as soon as you can. There will be plenty of opportunities but there is limited time made harder with Cathy going to Auckland sometime in September or October to help with the arrival of a new grand baby.

BUG UPDATES

• Leafroller

There are a lot more Leafroller around than usual, and particularly between fruit. This could be reflected in more caterpillar being found at picking. As flush start on the avocados and blueberries, we will see Leafroller in the new shoots.

• Flower Thrip (NZ & Western)

There are a lot of Flower Thrip in the berries right now and they will also increase in the Avocados as the flowering starts.

• Six-spotted Mite

We are seeing some leafdrop on trees. There are not always obvious signs of mites seen, so would suspect the leafdrop is a combination of mites and weather damage.

• Mealybug

Mealybug are being seen still, though usually not in high enough numbers to record. In berries, we are seeing Mealybug in the soil in some blocks.

• Scale

Tiny Armoured scale are being seen on avocados, sometimes reaching near to threshold. If you are exporting to Thailand, you will need to be aware of this and may need to take action.

In Blueberries, we are finding mostly Chinese wax scale during our Winter/Spring checks.

• Greenhouse Thrip

GHT at all stages are being seen on fruit. These are not an issue for picking other than the damage they will do to the fruit that are left of the trees. Back to back sprays may be applied.

These should not be present in berries now as you should have sprayed for them when the plants were dormant. However, we are seeing some, though in low numbers at the moment.

• Fullers Rose Weevil (FRW) damage and live

We have been seeing some chewing, though not in large enough amounts for us to record the damage. Damage needs to be 1sqm to be recorded.

• Natural Predators

As the weather starts to warm, we will see an increase in the number of predators in the orchards. The biggest increases will be Stethorus bifidus and Lacewings who will be feeding on mites. Another good predator for mites is Persimilus mite. We recently found Persimilus in abundance in a Raspberry block we visited.

• Blueberry Pests

Tunnel Houses are now into harvest, outdoor blocks are starting to flower on the early varieties.

As we have been monitoring, we are finding Flower thrip, a small amount of Scale, Mealy bug and Blueberry Cane borer. There is also some Greenhouse thrip being seen still present from last season and plus signs of Leafroller. See the comments in the columns on the left to see more about bugs found in berries.

• Blueberry Field Days

We are booked and nearly ready for the upcoming BBNZ Conference at Mystery Creek. Cathy is one of the presenters and is still working on her presentation.

We will have a stand with a microscope present to show you what we are finding on your fruit. Feel free to bring some new fruit along (not overripe or frozen) for us to check under the microscope. with backup from Cathy.



Photo: Botrytis on flowers

PREHARVEST CHECK

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PREHARVEST MONITOR EARLY



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Working with the Grower to Create Healthy Orchards"

WEATHER EVENTS

Our lawn has become a mess with all the continual rain. It's going to take quite a bit to get it sorted and the grass growing again. As we have visited many orchards, we are seeing the effects of the rain, with trees going yellow and dropping leaves. Always check for mites as this is the major cause of leaf-drop, but trees being affected by wet feet will look different. Making sure water is draining away from trees as much as possible is important.

SAFETY NEWS

With pollination starting, bees are being introduced. As long as the bees are happily placed in a nice sunny spot where they can happily work, they are safe, but if they have been disturbed, they can become quite upset. Please tell our staff if the hives have been moved, especially if during daylight hours.

It is important to inform your monitor if you are picking so they can avoid the orchard when hydalada's are working.

KAURIPAK

It is with much sadness that we learnt on 26th September that Kauripak are closing down. By the time you read this, we will have contacted all the Kauripak growers to tell them we are here to continue their monitoring as normal. DMS Avocado Manager, Hamish McCain was at the meeting with growers at Kauripak on 26th September, where he made a proposal to the growers. We are aware DMS do not have the ability to take over a large number new blocks for monitoring, so it is in your best interest to stay with us for your Avogreen services.

AVOGREEN REGISTRATIONS

Registrations are open now. Jes will be emailing everyone in the beginning of October with instructions. There will be opportunities to meet us at a café where you can buy yourself a coffee and chat with your neighbour, come into the office, or email the papers back to us. Café meetings are:

- 9th October 10am-12pm The Daily, Commerce Lane, Te Puke
- 12th October 10am-12pm Chrome Café, Wharawhara Rd, Katikati
- 19th October 10am-12pm Patio Rose Café, Cambridge Rd, Tauriko
- 19th October 12.30pm-2.30pm Café Botanix, Bethlehem
- 24th - 27th October 9.30am-5.30pm CropCheck office

Please register with officeadmin@cropcheck.co.nz so we know what to bring to these meetings.



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

CropCheck Limited

Address : 424 Upper Ohauti Road, Ohauti RD 3, Tauranga 3173

Phone : 07 281 1034

Email : officeadmin@cropcheck.co.nz

Website : cropcheck.co.nz