

**KIWIFRUIT NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2010**

EDITORIAL

ON ORCHARD TEAMWORK!

Again this year the first past the post early start caps came on in record time. With only two weeks of opportunity this year maybe we really should re- evaluate this system; once upon a time we had at least double this amount of time, at least.

With this short time frame and the knowledge of the amount of fruit needed per ship, surely we can take some of the stress off the suppliers and early start orchards, by having set allocations per week, maybe with fruit values set by the day. This would allow more efficient planning for harvest, and this process may also reduce the stress at the beginning of harvest.

From the field we are getting fantastic results from our picking teams, it is rewarding to see our training and improvements giving us fruit into the packhouse in top condition.

In the packhouse the results flow on from the great job in the field, and the packhouse is recording great pack outs per bin (Trays per 100 kg in our new reporting system). We have a lot of our regular crew back again this year and it is a happy atmosphere during a busy and stressful time of the season.

Should I mention rain!! If it does rain soon we hope that the maturity process is still not too far advanced for a significant lift in fruit weight. The fruit is still sizing now, albeit at a very slow rate, and historically we have had sizing through April and May in many seasons.

Size is now critical to your payments and the Zespri marketing requirements, so there may be a good case for Select Picking. This process has its own complications but could be an advantage in a year like this. We will discuss this with growers who could benefit from this type of picking.



Richard Allen
Customer Services

Aongatete teams are up and running, below we can see Rosie with one of our Auditing trolleys, this enables Aongatete to audit individual pickers as well as evaluate the entire picking process in the field.



In the photo below you can see the Coppins Proteck picking bag with the distinctive funnel on top of the bags, this gives a smooth flow into the bag negating the impact of fruit on fruit.



PACKHOUSE OPERATIONS REPORT FOR ISO WEEK 12

I want to say a big thank you (to our Growers that we have packed so far) for the very good fruit that we have received. I know the effort that must have gone in. It is a pleasure to work with nice fruit. The benefits of good husbandry are shining through, and this enables us to maximize your pack outs.

We are using a new pack out report format. We would be very grateful for feedback on this. We have shown it to our Grower Trustees and have their approval. It shows more detail on your reject analysis which we hope is a helpful tool. There is more detail on kilograms in and out. We are also reporting at the time of pack out your class 1, 2 and 3 trays. If you would like an example of this format in advance we are more than happy to send you a copy. We would also welcome into the packhouse Growers that haven't packed yet, wanting to see our improvements and to give us feedback on them.

General Comments:

Green: The average fruit size has been smaller than expected. Brix levels and dry matter rose quite sharply in response to dry weather but fruit sizing has suffered. A number of delays to picking were experienced due to the lack of black seeds (a factor quite highly related to days from full bloom). The main rejects have been shape (likely to be related to the cold spring) and sooty mould.

Gold: The maturity of Gold in this region was delayed relative to Green and this appears to be a seasonal effect and the result of the cold spring.

Pack outs have been excellent on the small volume to date.

We have found it difficult with the Supply Caps coming on so quickly for Green and Gold. We will be getting some allocation for Gold and larger Green fruit. Zespri is very concerned at the high numbers of 42 count Green in particular that are above the market demand. Changes to Kiwistart payments are expected to be implemented from week 14. Client Services will discuss options with you.



Nell Dawson
Operations Manager

HC 50 AVAILABLE FOR ACL GROWERS

Contact your Client Services representative to obtain the supply rate on offer to our Growers. Orders for HC50 must be received by 16th April this year, and please remember to ensure we have a copy of your current Handlers Certificate in our records. Contact Caron at reception to check this, or to confirm your order has been received.

LINKS IN THE QUALITY CHAIN

Another link in the quality chain are our hard working graders. They work long hours, especially during this early part of the season, and have produced great results.



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