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Season Update

Winter pruning is progressing well with this break of fine weather. We have completed all the gold and new variety orchards and Hi-Cane applications are in progress, which are about 7-10 days later this year due to seasonal variation.

Our RSE workers are making good progress and we anticipate that we will have completed the early start green in the next few days and the remainder of our orchards by their departure day of the 10th of September.

Many of you will have met Matt Nelson as he swings into his role of Horticulture Production Manager, as he directs and monitors the progress of our supervisors and pruners. He has a wealth of knowledge and will be an asset to your business. We are continuing to collect more information this season so we can build on our knowledge base about orchards under our management with the aim of fine tuning productivity by taking attention to the details of each operation against the management plans and especially rigour around the timing and specifications of each operation.

The Psa high risk area has been extended to Athenree Gorge following the detection of Psa outside the Te Puke zone. We continue to maintain vigilance with our orchard hygiene processes to ensure that any people or equipment entering your orchard is not increasing the risk of infection. While we cannot mitigate the natural spread of the bacteria in the environment via wind and rain, mitigating the transmission via plant or organic material is a vector that we can control. This has a cost to our operations. We have initiated a winter monitoring program round checking gold males and new varieties for any signs of Psa. You should also be taking the opportunity to walk your orchards and be looking for any signs of Psa ooze (see page 3 for what to look out for).

Finally, the Avocado harvest season is about to get underway. I remind Growers to be vigilant about orchard hygiene especially if your post-harvest operator is located in the Te Puke area. KVH has determined that Psa can survive and remain viable on timber and HPPE plastic for up to seven days so that means crates and equipment can be a vector for the transport of Psa into the Katikati region. Please ensure that you check that your operator is observing hygiene protocols especially on bins and hydalada's.

Alan Thorn
Grower Services Manager

A Word from Our Trustees

Peter MacKay and David Roberts have agreed to become trustees of our entity and this will strengthen the trust.

Peter Ombler and Neil Trebilco attended our last meeting to present the case for the new NZKGI levy proposal. KGI is currently funded by a clause in the supply contract between Zespri and Suppliers.

Key Dates:

Every Friday at 10am:
Psa Tour (see page 4)

17th August 2011:
Zespri Annual Meeting

September 2011:
Zespri Growers Tour

2nd September 2011:
AGM Aongatete Coolstores

This gives Zespri the authority to pay for the costs of running KGI and the ability to take these costs out of the pool proceeds. Therefore suppliers approve KGI deductions from the pools as part of the supply negotiations, but growers actually bear the cost. Obviously it is preferable for growers to authorise what is a deduction from their market returns. Our trustees supported changing the way KGI funds were authorised. You will all receive not only the voting papers on the levy, but an explanation of how it will work. Most important to remember is that if you vote "Yes" to the levy, it will continue the funding for KGI without increase and provide separation for the Grower voice from Zespri.

I bid for some new area of G3. In order to complete a block, I had to bid for what I needed under the closed tender and then offset any area I received under the fixed price tender. What price to bid? Many people were speculating that with Psa, prices would be low because it would be easy to lose the investment in a new variety if ones orchard succumbed to Psa. As it turned out the median bid was \$25,520 ha against what I considered would be a theoretical maximum of \$50k.

I see that Katikati received 14% of the new area for Gold 3 (from the Kiwiflier), whereas Katikati has only 11.6% of the total planted area (from the Zespri Annual Report). On the other hand, Te Puke has 41.3% of the total planted area but only got 19% of the G3 licences issued. This is a clear indication that PsaV has affected Te Puke more than the rest of the country. And who could blame them!

I will be going to Waikato Hospital very soon to have an operation and will probably miss the Zespri AGM. This is the reason why the push for payment simplification has come to a standstill. But just a reminder about how Taste Payments are made. Look at the latest Kiwiflier where it shows the calculation of the Taste Payment and then tells you when it will be paid. Did you get 30% of your taste payments in July?

Alan Sutherland

Introducing Matt

Matt Nelson has recently joined ACL's Grower Services team as Horticulture Production Manager.

Matt previously worked at Seeka and he brings a great amount of industry knowledge. Matt will work alongside Bernie Cookson and the team.



Look out for Matt, as he may be visiting your orchard shortly to introduce himself.

KGI Growers Trust Levy

The Aongatete Growers Trust recommends to Growers to vote **YES** in the upcoming Kiwifruit Growers Levy referendum.

- NZ Kiwifruit Growers Inc (NZKGI) belongs to Growers
- It is growers looking out for the interests of Growers
- Your organization (KGI) is independent of Zespri and suppliers/post harvest companies
- The levy is not any extra money. It is just a change in the authorisation of funding – instead of funding being authorised through the Annual Supply Contract (between Zespri & suppliers/post harvest companies) Growers will be directly authorizing NZKGI's funding
- We need **every Grower to vote**. A strong show of support will also reinforce NZKGI's ability to represent Growers e.g. clout with Government and Local Authorities

Voting papers will be sent out on the 15th August and must be returned by the 5th of September to NZKGI

If you want to know more about the proposed levy and what NZKGI does on your behalf, there is more detailed information at NZKGI's website at www.nzkgi.org.nz/levy

Orchard Overview with Matt

With Hort16A pruning this season, we have targeted around 35 buds m² on most of the orchards. We have been able to fill the bays up quite well with good self terminated cane and nice close bud spacing. All we require now is a favourable spring and good bud break. With the application of Hi-Cane all completed on the Hort16A we are looking forward to pollination.

The Hayward pruning specifications that we are targeting are 30 buds m², and we are looking at the canopy management work for the summer also. We are looking at low vigor and self terminated growth to give us our buds, but we are also making some big cuts along some leaders to tidy them up to ensure adequate light is penetrating the canopy. The Hi-Cane applications on Hayward will commence around the 8th August on the Early Start orchards. This season, Zespri has said that due to the lack of Winter Chilling units, those applications could be delayed by up to 7 days from last season.

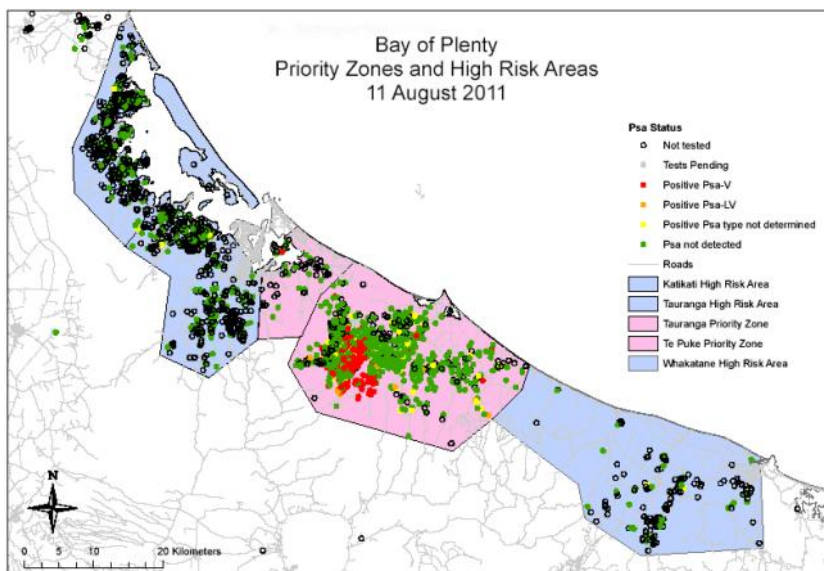
(Continue on Page 5)

Psa High Risk Area Extended

Just released by KVH this week, the whole of Katikati, Whakatane/Edgecumbe and Tauranga is now in the High Risk Area. More info can be found on the KVH website www.kvh.org.nz

This means that we all need to be ever vigilant — orchard security, orchard hygiene, copper sprays with good coverage and orchard monitoring are the minimum management practices every Grower should adopt.

KVH recommendations for Copper Spray are 7 -10 days post Hi-Cane, 3 applications of Copper Spray prior to bud-break. ACL will be applying Nordox @ 1.1kg/ha and sprayed at 1000 litre of water/ha. Please give us a call on 07 552 0916 if you would like to order Nordox.



Psa Implications and Monitoring

Psa continues to be at the forefront of everyone's minds, and will remain there until a solution is found. KVH and Zespri are responsible for the R&D and big picture management. We also need to play our part by making every effort to protect our orchards.

Orchard Security

- Secure your orchard; treat it as a biosecurity border.
- Lock your gates by chaining/fencing and signage. Control the entry of people, plant material and equipment.
- **Have you put up your Psa sign? DO IT NOW! It is a serious matter – Katikati Growers are NOT immune!**

Hygiene Procedure

- Check and clean all equipment
- KVH recommends NO plant material movement onto your orchard.

The spread of Psa infected vines continues to expand in the Priority Zone, with infection moving rapidly through some blocks. Male plants seem to be the first to display symptoms, hence the monitoring guidelines below are based on the male vines, but checking females is also recommended.

Monitoring Guidelines:

Walk your orchard – this will take time but is time well spent on protecting your orchard. Monitor the male vines; theory of male vines expressing symptoms before female.

Strip Male – walk the male rows.

Opposing female – walk every second row.

What to Look for:

- Look primarily in the leader zone—90% of Psa-V finds have been in this zone.
- Red and clear exudates
- Dark orange staining from where weeping was occurring and has since dried
- Cankers forming in correlation with exudates
- Cane dieback – canes dry and dead but still firmly attached to parent vine (corrugated shrivel)

Here are some examples of Psa infected vines:



Corrugated shrivel



Above: Canker



Above: Clear Exudate



Left: Red Exudate

What to do when examining:

- Keep your back to the sun.
- One person to walk either side of the leader to scan leader both sides.
- Avoid monitoring when canes are wet e.g. rain or heavy dew.

If symptoms are found or you are unsure:

- Tag the vine.
- Inform your Grower Services Representative immediately.
- Complete a symptom monitoring sheet from the KVH website and email it to: Karyn.lowry@kvh.org.nz or call KVH on 0800 665 825.

Reminder: Orchard Gate Signs - Nail them to your gate! KVH would like every one of their orchard gate signs to be at the entrance of every kiwifruit orchard in NZ. These signs are a powerful tool to raise awareness and protect your orchard. If you have not received a sign, please contact your grower services representative. If it is sitting in your shed, nail it to the front gate!



Aongatete has a team of monitors with the focus of monitoring for Psa. Team members have been trained in the detection of the effects and symptoms of Psa in the Priority Zone. If you require help with monitoring please give us a call on 07 552 0916.



From Left to Right:

Nathan, Adam, Robynne Jnr, Robynne Snr

Friday Psa Tours

10am Fridays, One Orchard, One Hour: This is a new initiative which is to draw attention to Psa symptoms and what to monitor for. You will need a disposable spray suit. If you are interested in attending, call 0800 665 825 or email info@kvh.org.nz with 'Friday tours' in the subject line. Limit of 20 people per week.

Remember to wash your clothes, hat and treat your footwear before entering back into your orchard!

SmartKiwi Innovation Fund

The SmartKiwi Programme was established to promote robust grower trialing and with the imminent threat posed by Psa, the funds have been increased to encourage innovation in the fight against Psa.

If you have any idea or trial that you will like to put forward for a SmartKiwi grant please call the Grower Contact Centre on 0800 155 355. Alternatively email zespri.innovation@zespri.com

GAP

Yes, its almost that time again! The updated **Grower Manual** will be available on Zespri Canopy in mid-August. Minimal changes have been made. On receiving the new inserts for your manual, you will need to prepare for your inspection.

To make the inspection as painless as possible, please ensure you review, sign and date the risk assessments in your manual and have the latest Compliance Assessment Verification (CAV) available from your fertiliser and spray contractor.

Zespri requires the inspections to be completed by Xmas.

With regard to Psa and minimising access onto orchards, we plan to run group sessions at the packhouse with a maximum of 4 Growers at a time. These sessions will run from 5pm to 7pm.

To register your interest in the group sessions or to make an appointment, please contact **Janice Whitehead** on 07 552 0916 ext 701 or 0275 114 443, Or email: janice@coolstore.co.nz

(Continued from page 3)

ACL uses the Spraywatch system to notify our owners and neighbours about the intended spraying of the orchards. The program will ring you between the hours of 6pm and 9pm the night before the spraying will happen. If you are not at home, a message will be left on the third attempt. (see back page for further info about this system)

This year ACL is using HC50 (Hi-Cane) to promote bud break. This product gives us a slightly earlier flowering than untreated vines, flowering is over a shorter period of time, we get a more even spread of flowers along the canes in the canopy, increased flower numbers and a reduced incidence of double and triple flowers which impacts on fruit size. HC50 is very toxic to aquatic organisms, animals (cats, dogs, sheep, cows, horses). Non-grazing animals should not be exposed to residues for 3 days, grazing animals for 7 days. Spray drift can cause serious damage to other desirable plants e.g.: lemons, tamarillos and gum trees.

We are using air inclusion (AI) nozzles on the sprayers applying Hi-Cane and SureCane, a low drift additive required by Zespri but please if you have any questions ring Matt.

Please give some thought to the up and coming pollination. If you feel you require extra hives to pollinate your orchard, or want to talk to us about your requirements please call Matt on (07) 552 0916 ext 738 or 027 511 4420.

Matt Nelson
Horticulture Production Manager

Winter Fertiliser Program

Crop growth creates a demand for nutrient and the export of harvested fruit, leaching and immobilization represents a loss, hence the requirement to introduce nutrients to support crop growth and consequently production is essential.

Kiwifruit have a greater demand for potassium (K), calcium (Ca) and nitrogen (N), with these being the major nutrients to replace. There is an increased demand for these nutrients during early season growth and fruit development. Plants need functioning leaves to take up Nitrogen.

Potassium is vital to fruit growth; I have been finding soil test levels are especially low in this nutrient due to the high rainfall we have experienced and the generally low levels of potassium in our volcanic dormant soils. A good dressing of Potash fertiliser will correct this deficit. After flowering fertiliser applications should be reduced as energy put into plant growth depletes from dry matter build up. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call your Grower Services Representative.

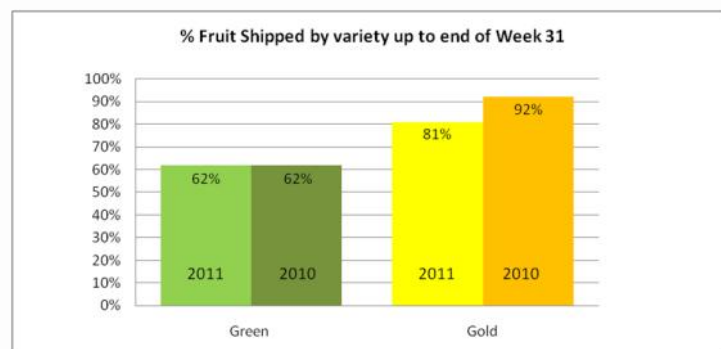
Controlled Atmosphere (CA)

Moving into August, CA packing continues, with four of our eight rooms packed. As in previous years, samples were collected from all the lines that have been placed into storage immediately prior to store closure. We are therefore continuing to closely track the status of all the crops that we still have in CA storage and the changes that the crops are making over the storage period.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, there have been issues with defects such as proximity marks this year, and CA crops have been no exception. Fortunately, we have been lucky with regard to storage related defects so far this year, and hopefully we will continue to lose as little crop as possible during storage.

Seasonal Statistics

ACL have shipped 62% of our 2011 season submit, with four more CA rooms left to pack out. Movement of Gold fruit continues with over 81% of our 2011 season submit shipped.



Zespri Board Candidates Meeting

With Zespri's Annual Board Meeting approaching, ACL invited the board candidates to come speak to our Growers about their nominations.

Martyn Brick and **Craig Greenlees** spoke about their commitment and contribution should they be successful in being elected by Growers. It was an informative afternoon and by hosting it at ACL, it allowed for in-depth discussion and question & answer time with the candidates.

Remember, voting takes place at Zespri's Annual Meeting on Wednesday 17th August, Baycourt Theatre, Tauranga at 1.00pm. Please see the Zespri Canopy website for more information - www.zespricanopy.com

GROWSAFE

If you need to **renew** your certificate for GROWSAFE and Agrichemical Approved handler, you have three options:

- Renewals for both certificates can be achieved online. Visit www.farmsafe.co.nz
- For small groups (5 –7) these are held at Fruition Horticulture's office in Tauranga.
- Or alternatively, Aongatete are happy to organise a face-to-face renewal option and we can set this up for groups larger than 10.

The time required is no more than 4 hours. The renewal involves an update on laws relating to agrichemical use, a self assessment on GROWSAFE principles, and some exercises about Approved Handler. Attendees receive reference manuals on Growsafe and Approved Handler. If you would like a face to face renewal option, please contact us so we can organise this for groups of 10+.

To register to attend an Intro GROWSAFE workshop, please call FarmSafe on 0800 545 747.

Spraywatch: Getting Messages 2 U

ACL utilises a system called **Spraywatch** to send all communications regarding spraying so that owners AND neighbouring properties are advised prior to the spray of agrichemicals. The notification is sent the day before spraying takes place.

Spraywatch's automated telephone notification system allows ACL to place a voice message which requires the Recipient to press button 1 on their telephone to receive the message. This is done as a precaution against young children answering the phone and not understanding that there is a message – and therefore not informing an adult. Where button 1 is not pressed, the system will try again. After 3 times, it will leave a voicemail.

If you know of any neighbours that would like to be informed of spraying times on your orchard or any changes to contact numbers, please let us know.



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