

**KIWIFRUIT NEWSLETTER
MAY 2010**

EDITORIAL

The value of constantly good maturity information has, we believe, resulted in a well planned harvest. The Packhouse has operated consistently, barring a break at Easter, since cranking up on the 19th March.

Packouts have been excellent (albeit some fruit a little on the small side), but maturities dictated harvesting, and this was the appropriate action as the Katikati area has seen more than its share of stressed vines this season. Dry matter accumulation is now complete on most orchards and brixes are rising quite rapidly. The majority of the lines are Y Band.

Packing statistics to the end of April (Significant proportion of Kiwistart product):

Green:	Average size	34.7
	Class I packed	1,003,647 trays
	Average Class I packout	
	Kg in/kg Class I	83.59% *
	Class II Family Kiwi NSS	9.92% *
	Rejects	4.94%
	Undersize	1.55%

* These figures show a lower Class I packout, and slightly higher class II due to the decision to pack some Class I 42's as Class II when the Kiwistart payments were changed. This maximised grower value.

Gold:	Average size	34.2
	Class I packed	289,739 trays
	Average Class I packout	
	Kg in/kg Class I	81.43%
	Class II Family Kiwi NSS	9.16%
	Rejects	5.92%
	Undersize	3.54%

CA: The first four CA Rooms were also filled by the end of April.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and co-operation over the harvest



Allan Dawson

TRUSTEE REPORT

The harvesting season is well underway with very mixed results from orchard to orchard. As a trustee for the pool we would invite growers to contact trustees should you require clarification on any issue or better still have you thought of sitting in on one of our trustee meetings and have some of your issues clarified. You would be welcomed and free to ask questions and contribute to discussions.

Dare I mention again the importance of picking fruit without damaging it? I am pleased that Aongatete have adopted the new picking bags as they make it easy to pick without damaging the fruit, and easy for the picker. There will be objections by people who are used to the old way. In the fruit loss statistics we will be able to tick off the box of fruit loss due to picking. It's another step in the process of reducing fruit loss.

Last week I was shown Aongatete's new repacking machine. When this new technology is settled down it has the potential of greatly increasing the quality of fruit presented to Zespri with minimal losses.

There will be a learning curve for Aongatete to operate this machine, which is the first to be trialed in the industry. The items mentioned above have the potential to:-

1. Reduce costs to growers.
2. Increase the O.G.R. to growers.

The enthusiasm and dedication of the staff implementing these systems is much appreciated.

Carlos Verissimo

SEASONAL BRIX READINGS

It is very noticeable, while travelling around, that many packing sheds have been working intermittently. Having worked mostly double shifts every day except for the Easter break Aongatete is well up with its harvest.

The Katikati region has some areas showing high brix levels. It is staggering to talk to Growers from other sheds and realise that they do not know the state of their brix readings.

To those Growers who will undoubtedly find that their brix readings are high, and their shed cannot pack them due to a wave of maturities, do not hesitate to give us a call to discuss options with us.



Richard Allen

HORTICULTURE NEW ZEALAND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME 2010

HortNZ has been running this comprehensive leadership course for around six years now with great success. Applications are now open for the 2010 program. It is a well worth while course which is funded for growers by HortNZ.

The program focuses on professional development and refining leadership skills. The course spans over two months starting with an intensive three day residential phase at Lincoln University and finishing two months later with a weekend in Wellington where each participant presents their project work.

Both phases of the course featured seminars and workshops including; strategic problem solving, public speaking skills, leadership style development and career path planning.

A number of ACL staff have attended the course, all finding it a challenging but rewarding experience, and we would strongly recommend it for any growers or managers looking to widen their skill set.

Application close 31st of May 2010. Contact Kirsty Mills at HortNZ, Ph 04 472 3795



Jacki McCormack

AONGATETE LARGE FRUIT COMPETITION



Comparing some of the large export quality fruit we have with the size 36 in the centre of picture gives perspective to the size achieved with some fruit.

One of the orchards in Opotiki used no hicane and relied on native bees for pollination.

Top left:	Country Magic from Opotiki	229 gm
Top right:	Primemac from Walker Rd East	252 gm
Lower left:	Central Orchard from Opotiki	228.8 gm
Lower right:	Mavora, Walker Rd East	216 gm

The Winner and prize will be announced at the end of Main Pack, and we will give another prize for CA Fruit.

NEW VARIETIES APPLICATION TO TRIAL

“Expression of interest” documents for the next round of New Variety grower block trials.

For growers who are interested in participating in pre commercial trials, either for this winter or next winter, the expression of interest documents are available on the Zespri Canopy website

These trials are for new pre commercial varieties that have been chosen from the clonal trial programme and should not be confused with the four Varieties that the Zespri board is making decisions on currently.

Trialists will not only benefit from gaining firsthand experience with their particular new variety, but are also part of the ‘information loop’ for the other new varieties being trialled. In addition, trialists can normally expect to be allocated a “free area” when their particular variety, or others in the trial, are commercialised.

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