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Season Update

With the recent confirmation of a Psa-V positive result on 13 Chieftain males in a Hayward kiwifruit orchard in Waihi, KVH have established a new Priority Zone south of the Waihi township and the High Risk Area has been extended to include all of the Waihi region. The adjustments encompass 30 KPINs in the new Waihi Priority Zone and 19 KPINs in the Waihi High Risk Area – approximately 190 hectares of kiwifruit orchards.

This new incursion creates serious concern for Waihi and Katikati growers and raises the risk of spread into surrounding orchards. Our team are ever vigilant and our Psa Monitoring team have been monitoring our gold and high risk orchards on a weekly basis.

We are aiming to provide as much information and technical help as possible on Psa and orchard management practices. It is imperative that you are checking your orchard frequently. If you need assistance with Psa monitoring, please contact us.

We also remain active in providing field days where Growers are encouraged to attend and discuss any concerns. In August, we had our Winter Technical Field Day on a local orchard where our Grower Services team provided practical tips and advice on managing Winter work. In early September, we had our Kiwigreen Monitoring Discussion Meeting and guest speakers, Campbell Tacon and Tim Egan (Pip Fruit Growers from Hawkes Bay and Gisbourne respectively) spoke about their experiences with KeyStrepto and gave a Grower perspective on the benefit and risk of using this product. And recently, we carried out a Zespri Canopy Spray Diary Training Session for our Growers.

It is important to acknowledge that this will be a stressful time for all growers. We urge you all to take advantage of the pastoral services and support that is available should you want to talk to someone (see back page for a list of organisations). The Aongatete Grower Services team are also available any time on (07) 552 0916.

Orchard security and hygiene is critical to keeping Psa out. Keep vigilant.

Alan Thorn
Grower Services Manager

A Word from Our Trustees

Let's be positive - there are unprecedented challenges ahead for all NZ kiwifruit growers and we all know what they are. What we need is time. Can we survive until this crisis is over?

Here in Katikati we have some real advantages over our unfortunate neighbours if we can keep Psa-V out of our district until a cure is found.

- If there is an immediate drop in volume of all kiwifruit through vine removal, the market price will rise as Zespri sells less fruit to poorer paying customers.
- The excess packing and coolstoring capacity should see competition among suppliers and drive their prices down (this is already happening).
- Interest rates are holding at a low level.

These are some of the short term positives for us. There are also some long term positives.

- The breeding program will find better, disease resistant varieties.

GAP Inspections must be done by December this year.

Register with Janice Whitehead by emailing janice@coolstore.co.nz or call (07) 552 0916 ext 701 or 0275 114 443. See page 4.



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- Growing economies closer to us will lower shipping costs.
- Improved orchard hygiene practices will lessen the risk of future disease problems

All in all, a cool mind and informed positive action is our best bet for surviving what will undoubtedly be a challenging year ahead.

David Roberts Trustee

Alex Scott

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Alex Scott. Alex died on the 17th September following a courageous battle with cancer but few knew he had also battled health issues for most of his life.

Kiwifruit growing was just one of the many businesses that Alex, along with Marie, was involved with. Alex made a valuable contribution to the Aongatete Kiwifruit Growers Trust as a Trustee. Remembered as a practical, most determined and pragmatic man who hated acronyms!

Alex will be deeply missed by the Board and his many friends at Aongatete.

Allan and Nell Dawson Directors

Orchard Overview with Matt

Winter pruning has now been completed with the Aongatete Pruning teams undertaking 132.98 ha this season.

The bud break in the Hort16A is going well after a fine spell of weather over the last few weeks and this has resulted in a very even burst right across the canopy. There have been a few scary nights where the temperature has dropped down to around -1°C. The buds do not seem to have been damaged by this cooling and these buds are showing good numbers of flowers inside them. Initial flower counts I have done so far are suggesting that we may have a possible 1.8 flowers to Winter bud ratio this season. The early Hayward is also now starting to burst and we are hoping for a good flower to Winter bud ratio.

As some of you may know there has been an outbreak of Psa-V in the Waihi district. Now the threat is very real for all those involved. Aongatete Coolstores and Growers must try to combat this deadly threat through the use of subsidy Copper sprays—you must apply 3 Coppers and have then entered into your spray diary before you can claim the subsidised \$100/ha from KVH. If you need any chemical or assistance entering your spray applications into the Zespri spray diary, you can contact Margaret Miller or me at the office and we can assist you.

This season there are additional recommended practices in place for beekeepers to try and minimise the spread of

Psa through our area. These are as follows;

1. Hives to go into the orchards when at least 20% female flower is open and should be removed at no more than 90% of pollinated flowers.
2. Place the bees in large, easy-to-access sites in the orchards so the beekeeper is not negotiating down tight rows next to shelters.
3. ACL has provided Envirosan to our beekeeper for wash down, but please ensure that a hose or water is available for use.
4. With hives coming from out of the area, Margaret Miller and I will ensure that the hives, the vehicle and the beekeepers boots are all clean and there is no risk to our orchards during pollination. If you have any concerns, please ring me on 0275 114420.

With artificial pollen possibly out of the equation for this season, Aongatete has purchased **Bee-Scent™** which is a pheromone based liquid formulation that attracts foraging honey bees to the treated blossoms. These pheromones are natural scents that influence insect behaviour. As a result, foraging behaviour is enhanced, more bees are attracted to the treated blossoms and the bees stay focused on working in the blossoms harder. This increase in foraging intensity improves crop pollination and the results in additional fruit set and better fruit quality. It is a non-toxic spray and is completely safe for bees and applicators alike.

Bee-Scent™ will be applied to orchards at early bloom (5-30%) and a second application (70 – 100%) is recommended. As fruit yield is a major factor in orchard profitability, Bee-Scent™ was trialled in the Bay of Plenty on Hayward across 8 orchards with significant increases in fruit weights and black seeds at harvest.

ACL will be applying the Bee-Scent™ in the early morning before the bees set off for the day foraging.

Matt Nelson, Horticulture Production Manager
027 511 4420

Psa Monitoring

Are you monitoring your orchard for Psa ??? You should be!

The recent finding of Psa-V in a Hayward orchard in Waihi should be a wake-up call to all growers that Psa is not just a 'Te Puke' problem. Every orchardist needs to get out and get up close and personal with their vines.

It is advised that all growers monitor their orchards at least every two weeks. Walk every row.

Green growers should also walk their orchards at least every two weeks, focusing on the male vines.

Now that the sap is beginning to flow from canes broken by the recent winds or out the end of Winter pruning cuts you may be seeing ooze. In previous years this will not be of any significance. This season you need to be sure of what kind of ooze this is. If there is ooze e.g. white/yellow,

make sure it is coming out of a cut/break in the cane. Red ooze is a sign of secondary Psa infection. If you have any doubt contact myself or your Grower Services Rep. Any growers that need a hand with their monitoring or would like training I am happy to help with this.

KVH has put together a short video available on you tube that has some good examples of what to look for and how to go about monitoring. – search Psa Monitoring and Symptoms or follow the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl3g1FyZvsU>

Protective Sprays: Keep up the protective copper sprays. With all growers from Edgecombe to Waihi eligible for the subsidy of three copper sprays from the establishment of the High Risk/Priority zones in those areas until bud break, there is no excuse. Whilst some of you may have issues around the application of copper, a comment that has been floating round recently seems very apt – ‘we are better to have a copper problem than a Psa problem’!

We don't have many sprays up our sleeves to combat this bacteria once vine becomes infected. There is no known systemic cure so we need to make use of what we have. Spray formulations contained in the Zespri Crop Protection Program have supporting scientific claim – be wary of those ‘snake oil’ sales men that will inevitably be knocking on your door!

Remember coverage is also important. Get some water sensitive paper and check your sprayer performance.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me on (07) 552 0916 ext 722 or your Grower Services Representative.

Have you got a Psa sign at your gate?

Margaret Miller
Technical Leader
0275 763 899



Psa Monitoring Team

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.



Some of the team (Left to Right) Nathan, Adam, Robynne Jnr, Robynne Snr.

Doing your own spraying?

Remember to notify neighbours before spraying.

For applications of hazardous chemicals, especially Hi-Cane, use the yellow bag over your letterbox and the yellow spray cone sleeves. Contact NZKGI's Office to purchase spray cone covers or obtain yellow letterbox bags.

1. **Notify neighbours** of spraying operations a minimum of 12 hours prior to spraying. ACL will use Spraywatch (an automated voice messaging system for all our spray notifications).
2. **Check wind conditions** prior to spraying. Do not spray if wind conditions are more than a light breeze (wind felt on exposed skin, leaves rustle).
3. **Use low drift technology** to reduce spray drift.
4. If you use a contractor, ensure that they are a **responsible** applicator.

Use prominently displayed signage to indicate spraying is taking place. An example of signage is below. This Notice of a Multiple Hazard Area sign has space for entering Orchard Spraying details.

This sign is available for purchase at ACL and we will print your name, contact number and nearest medical centre's details on the sign.

NOTICE

THIS IS A MULTIPLE HAZARD AREA

PERSONS ENTERING THIS PROPERTY MUST COMPLY WITH ALL SAFETY REGULATIONS UNDER THE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN EMPLOYMENT ACT 1992

DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION AND NOTIFICATION OF THE HAZARDS WITHIN.

ORCHARD SPRAYING

Will occur on this property on:

It will be safe to re-enter on:

Product used:

Contact phone number:

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY PLEASE PHONE

EMERGENCY: DIAL 111 NATIONAL POISONS CENTRE: 0800 764 766

Thank you to those that have updated their Neighbours Contact List recently with ACL. This has been passed to Spraywatch (our voice message notification system) to update.

If you have not received a copy of your current neighbours contact list to update, or wish to purchase the Notice of a Multiple Hazard Area and Orchard Spraying Sign, please email anh@coolstore.co.nz.

In addition, if you would like help with entering your spray diary entries into the Zespri Spray Diary or to arrange your spraying needs, please let us know on (07) 552 0916.

Intercheck Update

At the end of August, the four parties involved had a second round of mediation with Zespri in an attempt to resolve the 2010 intercheck dispute. Whilst some progress was made the group were unable to reach a settlement, so the matter has now moved to arbitration.

Arbitration is unlikely to take place prior to March 2012; this means that the total disputed balance which all parties have previously paid into our joint Solicitors Trust account will now remain in trust until the outcome of the arbitration.

As previously advised, the balance of the intercheck payment for 2010 and the ongoing legal costs are being underwritten by ACL, and there will be no further costs to the grower in respect of this matter. We are still hopeful that we may be able to refund some of the 5c per tray deducted from the 2010 pool.

For 2011 season the method of calculation of the intercheck rewards/penalties changed to a fixed rate per tray based on the offshore testing results. Additionally the payment system changed to make each week a distinct charging period as compared to the three charging periods in 2010. This means that any abnormal result will only impact on the trays shipped in that particular week.

To date our 2011 intercheck performance has resulted in a premium for the pool.

GAP

As noted in our last newsletter, GAP inspections must be completed by Christmas. ACL will hold group sessions at the packhouse with a maximum of 4 Growers at a time.

Register your interest with Janice. janice@coolstore.co.nz (07) 552 0916 ext 701 or 0275 114 443.

Updates in Guidelines

ZESPRI has advised some minor clarifications have been made to the KeyStrepto™ and Copper Spray User Guides to address possible misunderstandings.

ZESPRI encourages you to please read these documents again. Go to the Zespri Canopy or KVH's website for more detail.

Zespri Board Directors

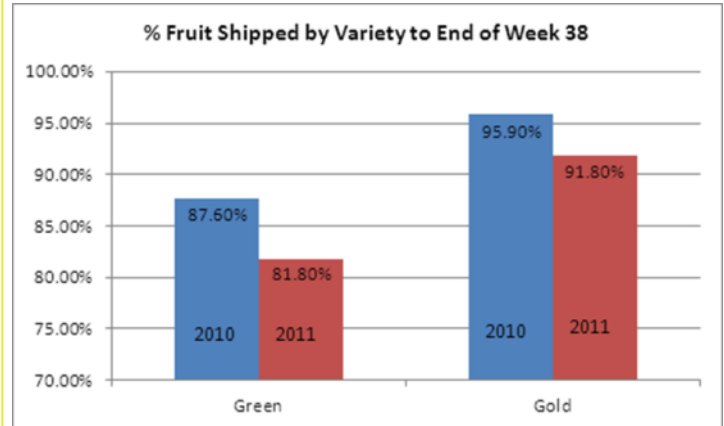
Three Directors – Craig Greenlees, David Pilkington and Ray Sharp – retired by normal rotation. All three sought re-election.

- David Pilkington and Ray Sharp were both re-elected uncontested
- Craig Greenlees voted into the vacant director spot.

Seasonal Statistics

As at the end of Week 38, Aongatete is 81.8% shipped on Green and 91.8% shipped on Gold.

This means Aongatete is 5.8% behind on Green shipping and 4.1% behind on Gold as at the same time last year. The reduced shipped volume is a result of the downturn in global markets resulting in fewer orders and a longer shipping season.



OGR Forecast—2011 Harvest

OGR's are for Gold and Green are now released.

	ACL Pool	Zespri
Net OGR per tray — Green	3.96	3.59
Net OGR per tray — Gold	7.18	7.34

We would be interested to hear what OGR's are released from other suppliers. If you wish for a like-for-like OGR comparison with ACL's results, call one of our Grower Services Rep.

NZKGI Commodity Levy Update

87% say "YES" – Results as notified by NZKGI showed Growers overwhelmingly voted "YES" to funding NZKGI's activities via a Commodity Levy. More than 87% of those who voted said "YES" to the proposed Commodity Levy and the "YES" votes accounted for more than 85% of the production of those who voted.

NZKGI President Peter Ombler said "Commodity Levy funding will strengthen NZKGI by making its funding independent and directly accountable to growers. A strong grower organisation will be part of seeing our grower community through the current challenges of Psa and unfavourable exchange rates". NZKGI thanks growers who voted in support and will continue to work for all kiwifruit growers. The next step for NZKGI is to submit an application to the Minister of Agriculture for a levy to apply from the 2012 shipping season.

Crop Protection Meeting

There was a great turnout for the Crop Protection Discussion Meeting on Monday 5th September with our Growers.

Kiwigreen monitoring and the best approaches to minimise Psa transmission risk was discussed. Margret Miller, Technical Manager, suggested microscoping leaves for scale on orchard and disposing of plant material onsite.

Our two guests at the event, Campbell Tacon (Hawkes Bay Pip-fruit Orchard Owner/Manager) and Tim Egan (Gisbourne Pip-fruit Orchard Owner with 20 years' experience) have both used KeyStrepto on their crop. They were very informative, and spoke about the restricted use of KeyStrepto in the pip-fruit industry to minimise fire blight. Both spoke about how Copper, used as a protectant, has been successful in managing transmission risk to their crop and the importance of spray coverage. Water sensitive paper was recommended to identify any spray issues. Coverage is King!

The Grower Services team also provide hand-outs to the group regarding the KVH spray subsidy. The use of KeyStrepto and KVH's recommended use has now been updated to avoid any confusion over its use. See www.kvh.org.nz for more information.

Contact Margaret Miller on 07 552 0916 ext 722 for any questions about Kiwigreen Monitoring.

Thanks goes to Camilla Harvey (KVH Psa Co-ordinator), Richard Pentreath (Zespri Representative), Mike Steele (Zespri Crop Protection Representative), Neil Trebilco (NZKGI Representative), Campbell Tacon and Tim Egan for joining the discussion with us.

A Copper Nail or Two?

Copper nails hammered into the trunks of kiwifruit vines may seem like a good idea in the fight against the vine disease Psa, but they won't work, growers were told why "Copper nails are in a stable form of copper and therefore do not release cuprous ions and cannot perform this function" at our Winter Technical Field Day in August last month.

Growers were informed that to be effective as a bactericide for the control of Psa, copper needs to be in an oxide, hydroxide or acetic form so as to be able to release cuprous ions which are able to provide a sterilant against attack. Ensuring good spray coverage is also an essential component of Psa protection provided by using copper chemistry. Checking your spray performance with water sensitive paper is a simple but effective visual tool.

Alan Thorn, ACL's Grower Services Manager required that Psa hygiene requirements were undertaken before anyone could step on to the orchard where the field day was held. "It was good to see our growers following the hygiene regulations and hope this is take home-message that is being applied in every orchard. We want to pass on as much information, both technical and industry relevant to our Growers to enable them to build on their knowledge of managing their crop, that's why we have our technical team."



Matt Nelson (far left), Aongatete Coolstore's Horticulture Production Manager talking to the group about Winter pruning techniques.

Up-Coming Events

13-14 October—Momentum Kiwifruit Conference

TECT Arena, Baypark, Mount Maunganui - This will be an informative conference covering:

- How other industries have overcome challenges through innovation?
- What the kiwifruit industry can learn about pest and disease management from other industries?
- Psa research progress and outcomes?

Go to www.zespri.com/momentum for more info. Registration closes 5th October.

KiwiTech Seminars Series

The KiwiTech Seminars – Optimising the Performance of your Licensed Varieties, will run from 26 September to 5 October. A key part of the seminar will be Plant & Food Research scientists discussing findings from ZESPRI-funded projects focused on orchard technologies to balance yield and dry matter per cent for Gold 3, Gold 9 and Green14.

A more detailed agenda, seminar times and locations will be on the Canopy

Aongatete is on Facebook!



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Join us on facebook as we update our online community with relevant industry updates as well as any events we have. Go to our business page at www.facebook.com/aongatetecoolstores and click **Like**.

Dealing with PsA-V

Dealing with stress and anxiety associated with the discovery and consequences of PsA-V can be hard to process on your own. The below services and organisations have been listed as a resource for support should you wish to talk to someone. Aongatete Grower Services team are also available any time on (07) 552 0916.

Rural Support	0800 787 254
Financial Advocates NZKGI	(07) 574 7139
Budget Advisory Services	(07) 578 0969
WINZ - www.workandincome.govt.nz	0800 559 009
Depression Helpline 8am to midnight, 7 days a week www.depression.org.nz	0800 111 757
EAP Limited (Free for members) 24/7 www.eapservices.co.nz	0800 327 669
Katikati Medical Centre	(07) 549 0411
Katikati Community Baptist Church	(07) 549 0034
St Pauls Presbyterian Church	(07) 549 0098
Katikati Christian Centre	(07) 549 0508
Carisbrook Bible Chapel	(07) 552 0770
St Peters Anglican Church	(07) 549 0040
Jehovah Witnesses	(07) 549 1812
St Pius Catholic Church	(07) 549 0217



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Innovative thinking...

Delivers consistently higher OGRs to our Growers.

Our technical experts provide leading edge development and implementation of new technologies. We utilise Near InfraRed (NIR) camera sorting technologies which aids us in segregating softs and tracking dry matter.

- ✓ Friendly personalised service
- ✓ Innovation in everything we do
- ✓ Forward-thinking technical support

- ✓ Precision focused
- ✓ Advanced horticultural services
- ✓ Postharvest optimisation

For better returns and advice Ph 07 552 0916

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