



## PRE HARVEST GROWER MEETING: Psa Q & A Sheet

March 2011

The following Psa questions were asked and answered at our Pre Harvest Grower Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>:

- Q Is there a variation in the susceptibility of vines in Italy between root stock and those that have been grafted?
- A *There is no correlation shown to date.*
- Q Is copper recommended for preventing Psa? Will applying multiple copper sprays have a negative side-effect on the orchard/environment?
- A *Long term use of copper is not good for the environment and is there for not a long term solution however it does allow us to gain some control of the current situation.*
- Q I'm concerned about the level of effort going into learning about vectors – can we get more research/funding into this?
- A *There is a large focus on determining Psa vectors and learning about the most at risk phases of the growing cycle. Plant Food and Research currently have 38 research projects underway.*
- Q How did Psa get here in the first place?
- A *MAF are currently doing an investigation into this. A conclusion of their findings is anticipated to be released in about two months.*
- Q Will Aongatete be adjusting their Controlled Atmosphere (CA) plan seeing as pressure drops more rapidly in Psa affected fruit?
- A *At this point Aongatete do not have any orchards with Psa-V confirmed. However we always prioritise shipping for at risk fruit by regularly monitoring our library samples.*

- Q Can we get Agfirst samplers to spray quad bikes etc before entering orchards as well as when exiting?
- A *This practice is not in the Agfirst protocols however it's up to the grower to ask people entering their orchard to do this. The Agfirst protocols stipulate all people, machinery etc. must be sanitised when exiting every orchard.*
- Q Is Psa wind borne?
- A *Yes – Psa is wind and water borne however at this point we are not sure of the level of contagiousness or whether the plant is more susceptible at different times in the growing cycle.*
- Q Will personal equipment be monitored and sanitised on orchards (lunch bags etc.)?
- A *Yes this will be closely watched. Personal items will have to remain in the designated parking areas.*
- Q Who is responsible for disposing of debris from orchards?
- A *Orchard debris (from bins in loading areas etc) will not be removed from orchards. It will be supervisors' responsibility to ensure all staff spray their feet, wash their hands and dispose of hair nets appropriately.*
- Q Can growers assist with cleaning quads after monitoring to help the Agfirst samplers speed up the process?
- A *If growers are able to be present when Agfirst samplers are on orchards they are welcome to assist. This may not be practical as it is difficult for monitoring teams to phone ahead with an exact time that they will be entering orchards for monitoring.*
- Q How bad is the Psa situation truthfully? Are we overreacting?
- A *We need to take drastic measures until we really understand this situation as we currently have incomplete knowledge. There will be a cost for doing this however the precautions currently in place aren't too onerous and all growers should follow them if we are to effectively control Psa.*