



APATA KIWIFRUIT UPDATE

August 2008

Welcome to the August issue of the Apata Kiwifruit Update

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New Kiwifruit Grower Services Manager Appointed: Bevan Bayne

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our Kiwifruit Grower Services Manager.

Damian Young, who currently works at OPAC, has accepted the role of Kiwifruit Grower Services Manager. Damian has been working at OPAC since October 2005 in his current role of Orchard Manager, managing both green and gold orchards. In his current role Damian has had the responsibility for ensuring the orchards fulfill their potential in quality and yield both on the plant and during production.

Prior to his role at OPAC, Damian has worked in management roles within the horticulture industry both in the UK and West Africa.

Damian has a Diploma in Horticulture and a Diploma in Horticulture Management from Lincoln University.

As Kiwifruit Grower Services Manager, Damian will support the business to ensure Apata delivers an industry leading grower service model that encompasses strategic, operational and technical support to our growers.


Damian will commence his employment at Apata on 1 September 2008.

Technical Update: Wade Hunkin

Winter pruning should be close to completion. If you have had a contractor do the job and it has been completed, the work should be reviewed.

Have the targeted bud numbers been achieved? How even is the coverage over the bay? If you aren't happy, get them back to do the job they were supposed to. Collect some data now on winter bud numbers so later you can combine with flower numbers to get a "flowers per winter bud" ratio that will assist with planning next winter.

Use the time between now and bud break to fine tune the job.



On Hayward vines reassess the cane spacing. A 30-40 cm gap around each cane or spur is the target. Crowded areas tend to become more vegetative and ultimately produce less fruit and lower dry matter as the vegetation competes for resources. Clean up the leaders, make some saw cuts and paint with a wound dressing such as Bacseal. Remove any weak spurs and canes.

The ideal Gold canopy is one that is flat and even. Check cane spacing and remove canes from crowded areas. Fruiting spurs and those close to the leader should be reduced to a single bud to encourage extension for next year. Weak spurs should be removed. Following bud break identify any vigorous canes growing from high points in the canopy and cut or break them out.

HiCane

Winter chill units (hours below 7c) have continued to accumulate in a similar way to 2006, so natural bud break for Hayward can be expected to be similar to 2006, probably a little earlier than 2007. The HiCane response is 30-35 days after application and to get the best response, it needs to coincide with the natural budbreak timing. There is a reasonable amount of latitude, some days either side of ideal is OK. Getting the right weather for application is most important. Fine days with average temperatures and a slight wind are the best.

HiCane, and in fact all hydrogen cyanamide products, are very toxic and have a specific code of practice for their application.

It is very important for your own health and safety that these are followed closely. It has also become very important for the continued use of these products that they are seen to be being used responsibly and with care for the safety of the general public and the environment. There is little doubt that the use of air inclusion nozzles and drift reducing chemicals as outlined in the recent Kiwifruit Journal article is a significant step forward and are definitely recommended.


The biggest step is to keep your neighbours informed. The bulk of the complaints received by NZKGI and EBOP would have been avoided if proper notification had been made so remember you must contact all neighbours of the orchard and notify them of;

- your intention to spray HiCane;
- the period when spraying is likely to occur;
- appropriate precautions.

As a grower it is your responsibility to ensure this happens.

Crop Protection

ZESPRI have made some announcements to changes to the Crop Protection Programme for 2008/9 with the full programme due for release early September.



For control of scale the key changes are:

- to allow two sprays prior to fruit set and a third with some evidence of need. We will be happy to provide assistance in this regard if required.
- a tightening of the criteria around the use of chlorpyrifos post-flowering.

This year will be the last we will be able to use chlorpyrifos before or after flowering

For leafroller control:

- Tebufenozide is no longer allowed on Hayward (Mimic, Comic, Approve, Echo and Islandzide) but remains for Hort16A.

We will be holding a round of field days in September with a focus on crop protection and early spring in the orchard – look out for the notice in Apata's kiwifruit email bulletin and update newsletter.

Other Orchard tasks

- Apply base dressings of fertiliser
- Now it the time to attend to the structure repairs
- Are your bees organised?
- Have a break.

Shipping: Barb Wilsher

Rain has held up loading to charter vessels over the past week. This has created delays to the shipping programme which is a good thing when you are repacking to order. Containers have continued to load regardless of weather conditions as the product is weather tight from coolstore to vessel.

Apata Whangarei has loaded Green to Europe on 5 August and Japan on 6 August. There is still a further vessel into Marsden Point later in August, destination to be determined so it will either be Japan or Europe, Europe looking most likely looking at the remaining product held by the industry in the Northland area.

Pyes Pa has all Green ordered from the site to load over the next week. There are several Organic Collaborative Market (customer specific) orders and a good run on Japan Organic product commencing 5 August followed by Korea and Europe.




Turntable Road continues to focus on clearing Gold stocks to Korea, Japan, Taiwan and China. A tidy up of Gold is making way for Green movement to Europe, several container markets, with very little Green ordered for Japan. We will see the Green to Japan build after the Gold is loaded from the industry.

Apata is participating in two packaging trials. The first product is going to Europe on 5 and 15 August. One is a Low Graphic box and the other a Reduced Lid, both bulk packs.

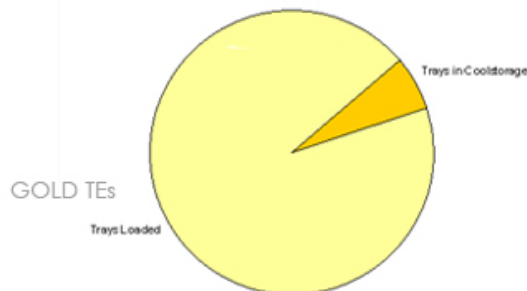
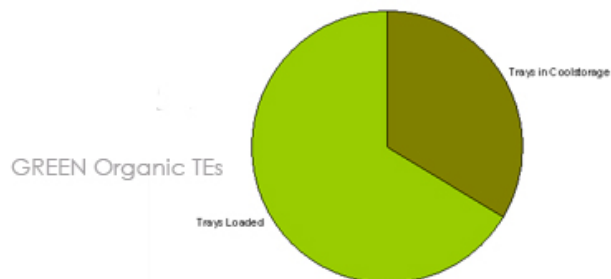
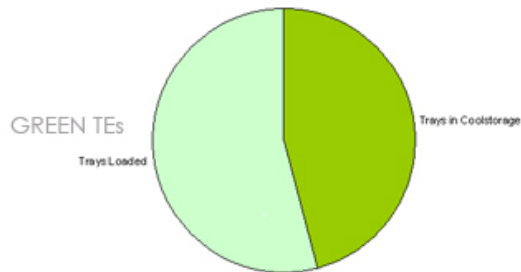
Coolstore Progress

We are progressing through our bin store programme and we are now onto packing from coolstore 7. The fruit so far is in good condition, with very little soft fruit.

Onshore fruit loss as at ISO week 31:

	Green - Apata 0.25%	Green – Industry 0.64%
	Green Organic - Apata 0.22%	Green Organic – Industry 0.25%
	Gold - Apata 2.26%	Gold – Industry 3.49%

The following graphs show the percentage of TEs (tray equivalents) loaded out (shipped), and what remains in coolstore.



All data for week ending 3 August 2008. Excludes GREEN 46s and GOLD 42s.

Key Dates

Apata Annual General Meeting

The 24th Apata AGM will be held on Wednesday 3 September at Fahy's Motor Inn Greerton, starting at 2.30pm.

The Annual Report and Notice of Meeting packs have been sent to grower shareholders.

Apata Suppliers Entity Annual General Meeting

The Apata Suppliers Entity AGM is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 9 September, to be held at the Omokoroa Yacht Club. Confirmed details will be communicated to Apata growers as soon as possible.

ZESPRI Roadshows

Apata growers are encouraged to attend a ZESPRI Roadshow during August and September.

Northland growers – there will be two ZESPRI Roadshows on Thursday 28 August:

- Whangarei – 9.30am at A'Fare 197 Lower Dent Street Whangarei
- Kerikeri – 2.00pm at Kerikeri RSA , Cobham Road Kerikeri

Bay of Plenty growers – the Southlink Supply Limited meeting will be held on Friday 5 September at Omokoroa Settler's Hall, starting at 2.30pm.

ZESPRI will be announcing the first forecast for the 2008 season, so we encourage you to attend.

Reminder - ZESPRI™ Gold Tender Process

Tenders for the remaining 222 hectares for Tranche 3 of the GOLD licence process are due in by 29 August 2008.

Successful tenderers in Tranche 3 will have until 30 September 2010 to plant and/or graft their licenced area.

Revised Payment Dates

In response to concerns expressed by growers about payment timing, the ZESPRI Board has agreed to postpone the due date for the 80 percent balance of the licence payment from 30 September 2008 to 27 February 2009. This will give successful tenderers more time to arrange their finances or lease additional land prior to planting or grafting their new vines in 2009. All other key dates in the tender process are unchanged from previously advertised.



Information Regarding Any Future GOLD Licence Release

Tranche 3 will complete the staged release of the additional 600 hectare increase in New Zealand GOLD plantings that the ZESPRI Board approved in principle in August 2006. The ZESPRI Board has confirmed that there will be no need to release further GOLD licences in New Zealand in the foreseeable future as existing plantings (including the 600 hectares from the current tender process) are expected to produce sufficient volumes of fruit to meet market demand through to 2015. The Board's decision relates to Hort16A licences only and is based on current knowledge and assumptions about future demand, production yields and other variables which may change and therefore may cause the Board to revisit its decision in future.

An information pack containing a prospectus and a sample licence will be posted to interested growers and is also available online at The Canopy (www.zespricanopy.com).

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