



apata kiwifruit link

JUNE 2009

2009 Harvest Draws to a Close

Well what a harvest. We had an early warm start and a great run of weather through to around week 15 and from then on we have experienced rain, more rain, hail, frosts and wind. Despite all these challenges we have packed over 500,000 trays more than last year and finished close to a week earlier.

In a season like we have just experienced, it is clear what drives success – and that's teamwork. Everyone working hard on behalf of the growers, everyone knowing how important their job is in the larger successful season.

It's been a great team effort, from you our growers, through to dedicated harvesters, transport team,

Grower Services and obviously our operation teams here in the Bay and Whangarei. We are quietly pleased with our collective performance. Our fruit was picked close to optimum, through a smart use of buffer and bin store, so we look forward with quiet confidence that our collective inventory performance will be strong.

So now it's onto winter pruning and preparing for 2010. This is what makes the kiwifruit industry so much fun. You no sooner have last year's job finished and it's straight into the next. Let's all winter prune with an eye to top yields and taste for 2010.

2009 Harvest Wrap Up: Piers Zajac-Wiggett, Harvest Manager

Turntable Road and Pyes Pa harvest programme is all wrapped up with the last of the bins picked last week. As Todd mentioned in his update, we are on track for a positive year through a smart use of buffer and bin store. Fruit picked for buffer store was picked at optimum maturity, before most brixes rose, and before the frosts hit the area. This fruit was picked at least 10 days earlier compared to 2008.

The harvest has run well and I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thanks to all involved that have played a part in making it happen. A big thanks to our Gate house team for their efforts day and night in receiving a huge volume of bins and learning a new system; to all the Yard forklift drivers for their contribution to the fruit coming onsite and the long hours they worked; to Apata transport department for moving of contractors equipment and bins; to Neil Brough and his team for transport logistics, and harvest support, of bins to and from the site and working in with the contractors, to Brett, Ian and the Coolstore team for the great efforts in coordinating and putting away thousands of bins for our bin store program; to Gerry for coming to the harvest meetings everyday and to all aspects of operations, supply and administration that made it possible for us to harvest the capacity we did so successfully; and last but not least a big thanks to the Grower Services team for their support during the harvest. And last but not least, a huge thank you to our growers and our harvesting contractors who have been great to work with and have done a fantastic job.

I look forward to the next season and continuing to work with you all.

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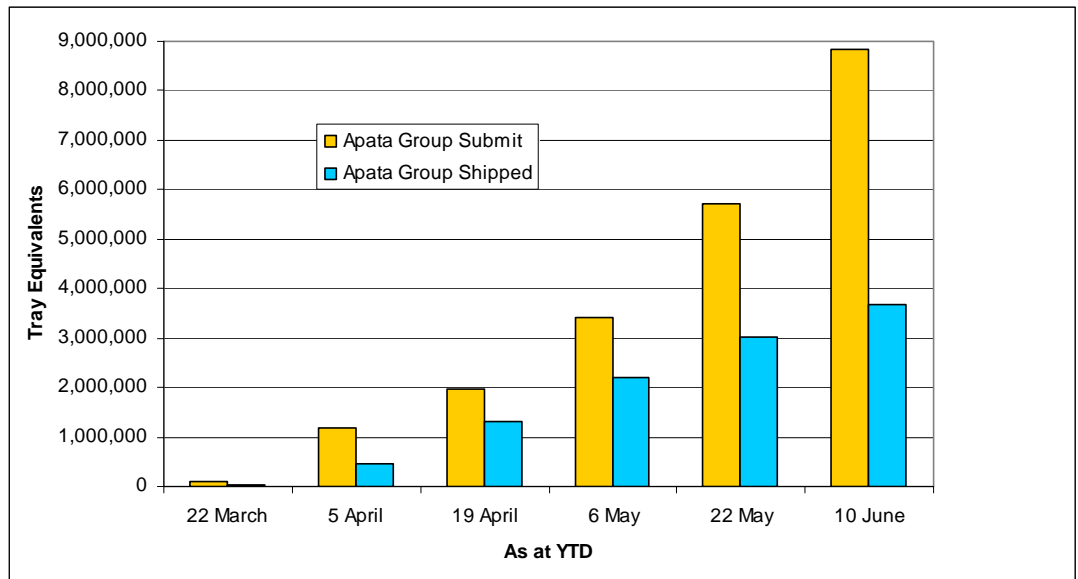


Apata 2009 Season Update

Apata Group Submit vs Shipped

This graph shows the total Year-to-Date that APATA Group has submitted into ZESPRI's Inventory, and what has been shipped by ZESPRI.

As at 10 June 2009, Apata has submitted 8,820,243 TEs of kiwifruit, and ZESPRI has shipped 3,684,207 TEs of Apata's submitted fruit.



Apata Shipping Programme Update: Barb Wilsher

Submit versus Shipped and Ordered

- Green Class 1 Industry 45% Apata 39%
- Green OB Class 1 Industry 49% Apata 49%
- Gold Class 1 Industry 71% Apata 68%
- Gold OB Class 1 Industry 60% Apata 86%

As there were no vessels loading over the Queen's Birthday weekend, there was a big push from Tauranga Kiwifruit Logistics (TKL) to load as much as possible on Thursday and Friday prior and finishing on Tuesday. This related specifically to containers which are plugged in (to the electricity) at the wharf if delivered early.

Apata Group Limited managed to achieve this allowing the loadout boys to have a quieter weekend.

As in previous years, Apata will be supplying Gold and Green conventional kiwifruit for this year's Mystery Creek Field Days. These trays have been delivered to Kiwi Produce for ripening treatment so the fruit is just perfect for tasting.

Vessel loading during the week of 3-10 June (Wednesday to Wednesday):

Haru Verdy to Japan
Hansa Visby to Marin Pontevedra (time to get out the atlas)
Marf Provence to USA
Cap Bianco to Z9 markets
Tasman Crusader and *Cap Palmerston* to Hong Kong and China

There have been significant order swaps by ZESPRI between

Winter Field Days Update

Winter Field Days venues for Bay of Plenty Green Growers have been confirmed:

Thursday 18 June

1.30pm
 Leppard Orchard, 499 State Highway 39, Te Puke

Friday 19 June

9.00am
 Dartmoor Orchard, 229 Snodgrass Road, Te Puna

1.30pm
 Baypark Orchard, 246 Ruahihi Rd, Kaimais

We look forward to seeing you there.

Rainfall Data Wanted

As part of some work we are undertaking examining the storage behaviour of fruit in coolstore, we are trying to locate the daily rainfall over the harvest period.

We have good data for Katikati and Te Puke but not for the area from Omokoroa to Bethlehem.

If anyone has been recording their rainfall in this area, we would like to hear from you. Please call Wade Hunkin on 07 552 0531.



Reject Rates Year-to-Date

	2009	2008
Green	13.94%	13.1%

Prior to harvest, this year's Green crop was expected to be a greater challenge 2008 but in fact rejects have tracked at similar levels to 2008. We have however observed a different pattern to the make up of this year's rejects. Losses due to scale rejects have been reduced, however water stain is more pronounced due to periods of rain later in the season. Flats have also figured prominently.

	2009	2008
Gold	20.71%	17.2%

Early on Gold fruit was looking very clean and we anticipated a reduction in overall reject rates. However Gold rejects this year have been slightly up from 2009, with the biggest influence being an increase in physical damage.

	2009	2008
Organic	15.0%	13.1%

Crops affected by the extreme hail event in May have not been included in the above reject rates.

Scale Programme: Wade Hunkin

Fortunately the fruit pictured to the right is a rare fruit this season and carefully saved by the grower concerned as an oddity.

During spring the industry had a major effort to present a solution to the problems conventional growers had in dealing with scale without the use of hard chemicals like Lorsban post flowering. Experience with Organic orchards demonstrated that good levels of control were certainly possible there remained an element of nervousness that the end result would be acceptable.

We are pleased to report a fair measure of success with comparatively few instances of scale becoming a major issue during packing. In addition more than 95% of our crops were OK for all markets from a spray diary perspective. A great result from an inventory management perspective and a complete turn around from last year.

To date scale levels overall in crops were reduced compared with the previous year with 14% of Gold crops and 7% of Green showing levels of scale over 1% in the line overall.

The next step for growers in maintaining the progress already made needs to be taken during the winter. A favourite site for scale to overwinter is amongst the major crowns that have developed on leaders. A proportion need to be targeted for removal as part of the winter pruning regime. We will be discussing this subject during our Winter Field Days.

Come spring the cycle will begin again.



Photo courtesy of ZESPRI International Ltd

For more information on scale, check out ZESPRI's Canopy Website (www.zespricanopy.com) for the latest KiwiTech Bulletins.



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