



# ● apata ● kiwiliink

MAY 2011

## 2011 HARVEST SEASON

by Bevan Bayne, General Manager Grower Services

Welcome to Kiwilink to all our Apata growers and thank you for your support and fruit supply this season.

As most of you will be aware we had an early start in Week 11. However, fruit maturity has been drawn out bringing challenges to both growers and post harvest providers. To ensure fruit supply to shipping and early market programmes, ZESPRI made a number of volume allocations by week, which has brought further complexity to harvest and packing.

We have attempted to counter this by keeping our growers aware of kiwistart rates, volume allocations by week, and how both your size and taste profiles effect the financial outcome of picking in certain weeks. I am pleased to say that grower awareness of size profiles during kiwistart and its effect on kiwistart payments was greatly improved this year meaning Apata supplied the right profile to ZESPRI markets and less surprises for growers at final ORG time.

Regardless of planning, capacity, and endeavour, the industry will be faced with having to pick and pack a bigger volume of fruit in main pack. This, along with seasonal factors that have delivered a likely five-year low in dry matter, make the decision to pick both simple and complex. My view is that growers must consider what their orchard is doing this season, and what the dry matter curve is suggesting on Ag first for 2011 alone.

As growers, you should then look at volumes to pick, pick days to achieve it, and what programme your fruit is destined for, i.e. pick to pack, or controlled atmosphere storage. Your Grower Services Representative is on hand to discuss all of these options with you and also share what our orchard and fruit assessments are suggesting is the best plan to maximise your fruit returns at Apata. Our team will also keep you up to date on beneficial packing and weather windows as the long range forecast for May suggests we will be continuing to harvest in and out of more bad weather.

To counter these challenges we have started our fourth (night) shift at Turntable Road and extended the hours to generate the equivalent of another day of packing per week. We have also engaged more picking gangs to ensure we have the harvest capacity to meet the challenge. For growers it is likely we will ask you to spray the night before, or early on the day of picking, and also pick more in one day if the weather pattern continues so any support you can give us in this area will help.

Once again, thanks for your support during kiwistart and we look forward to working closely with you through main pack to deliver a great harvest for you.

## THE LATEST PSA INFORMATION

by Wade Hunkin, Technical Services Manager

### Protection Preharvest

Prior to harvest we need to remain in protection mode. The recent wet weather is a reminder that the potential for infection is there in the leadup to harvest. The preharvest interval for copper products is 21 days, however, ZESPRI will permit a shorter interval with some market restrictions being applied.

Serenade Max can be applied up to five days prior to harvest, but there is some risk of the acidic cleanup sprays forming white deposits.



## Protection Options Post Harvest

ZESPRI have released an update to the Crop Protection Programme: [click here](#) for the full details containing their recommendations for the application of protective chemicals after picking.

There is some evidence that the commonly used cleanup sprays based on citric and lactic acids are of benefit in reducing levels of inoculums in the canopy but applications of copper will be the most effective protectant over the period immediately after picking.

### Outside Te Puke Recommendations

For those outside the greater Te Puke area, the leaf scars should be protected by applying copper compounds, for example: Champ Flo, Kocide Opti, Nordox 75WG, Liquicop at 90% leaf fall (i.e. do not wait until every leaf has dropped). If leaf fall is protracted two applications may be required to ensure the protective cover is established and maintained.

During the dormant period it is important to monitor the vines for any sign of secondary infection such as exudates. Apply a copper spray directly following pruning, on a daily basis if possible.

As Hicane interacts with copper products do not apply copper less than 21 days before the Hicane application and wait for seven days to pass before applying. Remember Hicane is effective against PSA, so in essence, it is a “free” cleanup spray. Recommendations for early spring are still being developed.

### Within Te Puke Recommendations

For Growers within the greater Te Puke area, apply a copper spray immediately after picking to protect the picking wounds in addition to the sprays at leaf fall.

To summarise (at a minimum):

Outside Te Puke	Te Puke
Clean up spray	Clean up spray Copper after picking
Copper at leaf fall	Copper at leaf fall twice
Copper after pruning	Copper after pruning

Application of copper will also be beneficial after a damaging weather event such as hail, severe frost, or major wind event (as was experienced in the lower North Island just after ANZAC Day).

For Organic growers, the option is limited to applications of Copper. With an eye on the beneficials, it is not a particularly satisfactory situation to be in. So, outside the High Risk area around Te Puke, the focus needs to be on the application at leaf fall and a followup application at pruning time.

### Clearance Tests

The standard clearance tests for Main Pack this year are the same as last year.

For Green: Brix, Dry Matter and Pressure on all 90 fruit  
For Gold: Colour, Brix, Dry Matter and Pressure on all 90 fruit.

Both are a little more extensive than the basic industry demand but we believe having as complete a set of data as possible is important in making the best inventory decisions we can.

We will be continuing to test fruit in the Apata laboratory over the next few weeks prior to putting fruit up for a clearance so we can leave the clearance test to close to the start of packing.

### Fruit Maturity and Dry Matter

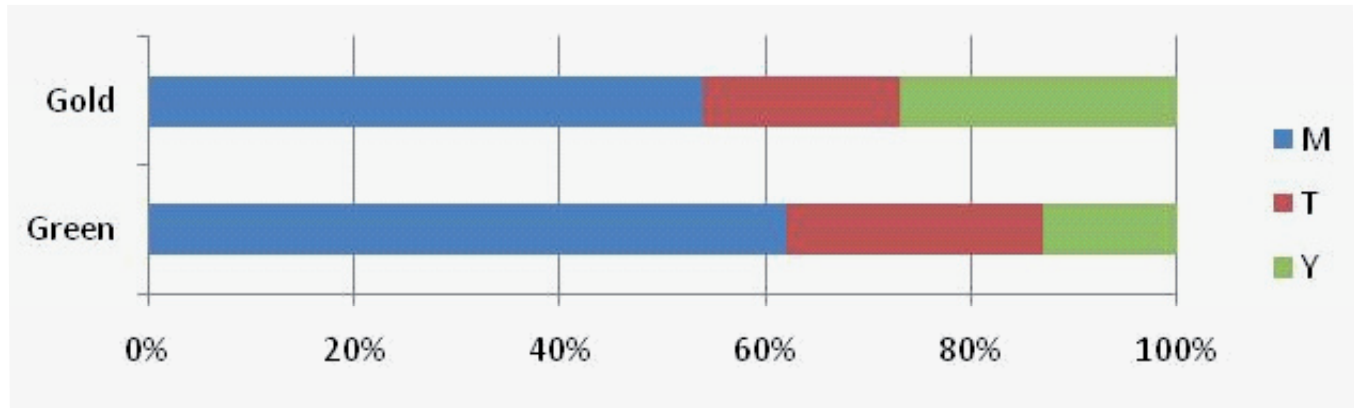
The pattern established early in the season of finding fruit mature enough to meet the changing harvest criteria and large enough to make Kiwistart rates attractive, has continued into late April. However, at long last, brixs have started to rise so we have seen the first Mainpack Hayward clearances out of some cooler orchards.



Dry matters have remained disappointing with over 60 percent of fruit for both Green and Gold clearing as M-band. Across the industry the proportions are similar.

Some of the M-band fruit has been very low and recent testing suggests the trend is unlikely to change significantly. For Gold we have observed in previous years that dry matter tends to peak once the fruit begins to degreen and maturity advances.

### Harvest to Date by Dry Matter



### CA Storage

We have identified fruit that we would like to target for CA Storage based on past performance and some early season testing. Over the next week we will be fine tuning the plan, so you may well hear from your Grower Services Representative regarding packing arrangements.

In contrast to the early season's recent years, this one is more 'normal' so the industry knows that picking and packing will become constrained during May. Targeting your fruit for CA will permit your fruit to be harvested at the optimum time and maintain the flow of fruit off the vines.

### New Variety Update

by Damian Young, Kiwifruit GS Manager

Apata is committed to growing and retaining its market share of the kiwifruit industry. Apata has been achieving an above-market share since new varieties were introduced in 2009. Last year Apata was involved in the planting or grafting of three new varieties; the opportunity to join the 2011 NV programme starts now.

There has been an extensive round of industry consultation on what mechanism should be used for the release of new variety licences in 2011. Fixed-price and closed tender bids will run simultaneously for 2011. Consultation included discussion at a number of grower meetings, new variety field days, NZKGI Forum, NZKGI Questionnaire, Industry Advisory Council (IAC) and direct grower submissions.

The ZESPRI Board met in late-March to consider these submissions and establish a licence allocation mechanism for 2011. Chairman, John Loughlin, felt the two types of licence application meet the differing needs of growers most effectively. The combination of licence allocation methods allows for a range of growers to be able to make the most of the new variety opportunity.

Some 2011 New Variety Documents are now available on The Canopy, including:

- Licence Allocation method information
- New Variety letter from Lain Jager and John Loughlin
- 2011 Licence Application Overview and Rules
- 2011 ZESPRI Kiwifruit Variety Licence
- Evaluation Panel – Terms of reference
- Timeline.

Note: New Varieties Q&A and guides will be available on The Canopy shortly.



## HARVEST

by Piers Wiggett, Harvest Manager

### Apata Auditing 2011

Our auditors have been going well this year with an expanded team and longer hours, and our presence on orchard with our Apata harvesters increased. With the increased training program and focus on best practice, we have seen our auditors begin to have a greater affect on picking practices.

Overall Apata contractors have done very well, especially in light of the rough start to the season with little work. Auditors will focus on Apata harvest contractors, and will only visit orchards with other contractors as a courtesy and or requested by growers.

## CLEAN UP SPRAYS

Cont'd by Piers Wiggett, Harvest Manager

### Psa Harvesting Requirements

#### Growers' Responsibility

- Supply of Water Source required
- Define acceptable Load out area inclusive of how car parking will be arranged
- Hardstand loading zones required
- Access ways to orchard and or loading zone to be trimmed to avoid accidental contact with kiwifruit vines
- Provide Wash down areas
- Decontamination of load out area after pick process
- Measures in place to exclude unauthorized access – such as fences, gates or signage

#### Harvesters' Responsibility

All contractors must have a designated person on orchard that will ensure all protocols are followed and recorded.

To be done daily:

- No vehicles to drive on Orchards, especially no vehicles in, under or around canopy areas at any time unless directly related to Harvesting.
- Establish a control point on arrival.
- Bags brushed free of any debris, sanitized and checked.
- Clothes & Hats – ALL debris removed and brushed off and checked.
- Shoes sprayed or foot baths used (for footwear) – all footwear to be disinfected prior to leaving orchard.
- Keep loading area as free of debris as practically possible.
- Ensure efficacy of decontamination solutions. (Do not use old or heavily contaminated solutions).
- Mixture of chemicals must be recorded. (solution used, concentration, volume and date)
- The Movement of vehicles and people should be regulated and minimized; this includes late arrivals, visitors and especially personal visitors. All need to adhere to protocols and assurance by designated person that they are free of contaminates entering and departing the orchard.

If you have any questions regarding harvesting, Apata Harvesting crews and or PSA concerning harvesting protocols, please call Piers Zajac-Wiggett, Harvest Manager, Mobile 027 426 5548.



