



# on the vine

## The 2011 OPAC Grower Newsletter

Issue 4

### from the Managing Director

Rain, rain go away! As frustrating as this is, it is timely to remind growers that by all accounts the fruit is still handling within expectations and that when we look at the maturity of the fruit we are not running behind the ball.

The fruit maturity has been a lot slower this year when compared with previous seasons. We have only recently started to get Green orchards over the 6.8 brix level and have just had our first orchard registering over 8 average brix to date. The harvest team are keeping a very close eye on what the fruit is doing, with picking occurring whenever the weather allows. Gisborne has not been significantly ahead of Opotiki on brix development and there is a lot more fruit on the vine to harvest than we have traditionally had.

Volumes of fruit harvested continue to track well to estimate with the exception of Opotiki Gold crops which are exceeding budget by upwards of 20% on some lines. Even though we are in the middle of harvest, planning for next year begins. Management agreements and orchard budgets are being worked on with planning for next year well underway.

The new variety tender process and orchard conversions are a hot topic at the moment albeit balanced with the risks that lie ahead with Psa infection.

With regards Psa I strongly urge all growers to remain vigilant with monitoring of your orchards even now. OPAC remain firmly of the view that the best policy is to treat our orchards as if we do have Psa nearby and maintain a very high level of alertness and be proactive about orchard controls. I notice a common view about Psa being a Te Puke problem not ours. This is a very

dangerous view and in spite of a lot of noise around binned fruit movement the discussions around on orchard practices has lulled along with potential controls around young vine movement and general contractors.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work being done by Tim Egan in Gisborne and will be challenging our local Opotiki growers to take a more pro-active role in Psa management practices.

Winter pruning and potential grafting over of Hayward vines are potentially high risk for movement of bacteria or creation of wounds for infection. Our winter pruning field days will pick up on protocols around preventing spread of Psa utilising copper sprays and hygiene practices.

As you may be aware the New Variety Tender Documents are now available on the Zespri Canopy site. This year there will be two types of tender processes running. First there will be the Fixed Price Tender which is similar to last year. Secondly there is the Closed Tender. This is similar to the tendering process for Hort16A. There are a couple of differences between the two so it will pay to carefully read the document and provide all the necessary documentation to ensure that you tender is not void. If you have any questions regarding these documents, or wish to download a copy please contact Mark who will be able to help you. There is a meeting here in Opotiki on Thursday 26th May in which Zespri will provide an update on the three varieties and also go through the tender process.

Looking forward to a clean finish to the harvest for 2011.

Craig Thompson

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**OGL Meeting**  
**Wednesday 25th May @ 2pm**  
**OPAC Opotiki**

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**Grower Update**  
**Wednesday 25th May @ 4pm**  
**OPAC Opotiki**

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**Zespri N.V Meeting**  
**Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th**  
**See inside for details**

*Please note that the May Progress Payment will not be paid until 30 May*

End of Week 19	Gold		Green	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
<b>OPAC Packed</b>	1,223,244	1,182,496	979,200	1,926,756
<b>OPAC Avg Size</b>	32.48	33.23	33.55	33.47
<b>Industry Packed</b>	21,142,297	20,033,361	27,531,245	48,659,253
<b>Industry Avg Size</b>	32.23	33.06	33.02	33.47

## Technical Update

For those people that will be winter pruning and tying down new varieties here are a few tips;

- It is easier to take the strings down while the leaves are still on and the canes are supple.
- Cane spacing is very important. Both gold varieties are very light sensitive and both prolific yielders therefore cane spacing would want to be at least 300mm apart. This will also help to reduce the crop load as it is far too easy to over crop both G3 & G9.
- For both PSA mitigation and also canopy control I believe that the best option would be to restring for the following season. This would mean that the replacement canopy is kept up allowing good light to get through to the fruiting canopy and also means a lot less cutting which would cause potential wound sites.
- Look to paint any cuts or spray with a sterilant
- Cane diameter is very important to minimise any fruit shrivel and to maximise the quality of the fruit produced. The size of the cane is more important than getting canopy fill.

Gold & Green –

Try and maximise any winter chilling we may get as it is helpful to speed up the natural leaf drop once the fruit has been harvested. By June I would be looking to apply a copper sulphate to all Hort 16 harvested to help make use of winter chilling we may receive.

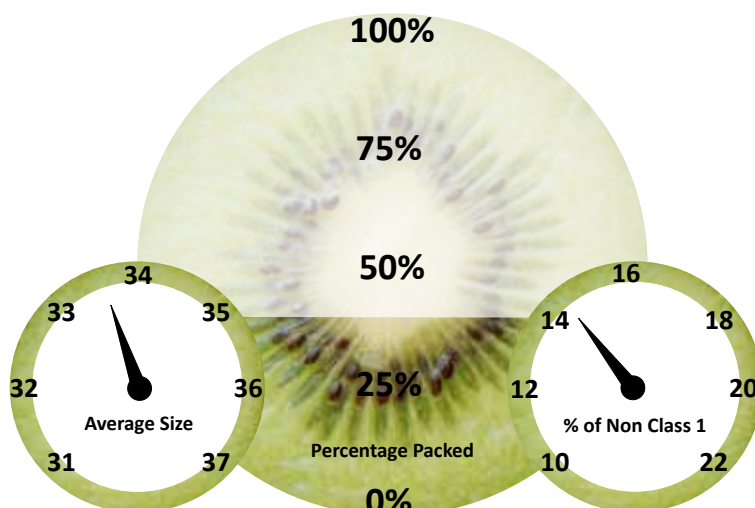
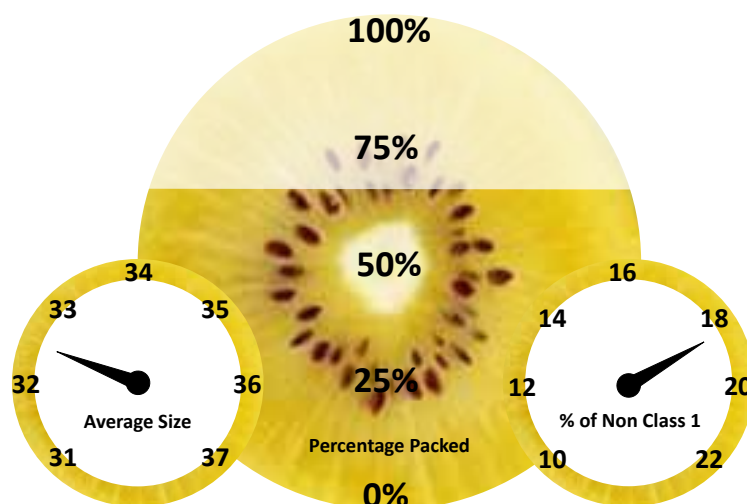
Reminder: We are holding a winter pruning field day for both Hayward & Hort16 on the 8th June.



## Zespri Meetings

ZESPRI New Variety Fruit Tastings		
Date	Area/Venue	Time
Wednesday 25 May	<b>Hawkes Bay</b> Ron Flowers Packhouse, Twyford Road, Hastings	10.00am - 12.00am
	<b>Gisborne</b> Bushmere Arms Hotem, Main Road Waerangahika	5.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday 26th May	<b>Opotiki</b> Citizens Club, Nelson & King Street, Opotiki	10.00am - 12.00pm
	<b>Edgecumbe</b> Awakeri Event Centre, Edgecumbe	2.00pm - 4.00pm

## OPAC Dashboard



## Health & Safety

We look forward to seeing all Growers visiting to see their fruit being packed. You will be informed (phone call) prior to your fruit being packed. OPAC would like to take this opportunity to remind visitors that OPAC sites are multi-hazardous sites and our workplace Health and Safety and Food Safety policies require all visitors to complete an OPAC induction. This will then fast track access to the packhouses where you will only be required to sign in at the main office (or outside of hours at the packhouse office) in order to begin viewing your fruit being packed. Please make sure that your orchards are safe for our workers to pick. Any protruding wires, broken structures, or other hazards, that could cause injury will need to be remedied prior to picking and any new hazards that we were not aware of last season need to be notified to OPAC.

## Industry Updates

### Changes to the 2011 Loyalty Contract Psa Deduction

Following the discovery of Psa in New Zealand, the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) approved industry funding for an industry support package, including, if required, a contribution to be deducted from the Loyalty Premium commencing in the 2011 season. The IAC resolved that an amount of up to \$0.15 per Class 1 tray supplied to ZESPRI and shipped (FOBS) may be deducted from the second instalment of the Loyalty Premium. A minimum of \$0.10 will be paid to all growers with a loyalty agreement. Amounts deducted will be paid to Kiwifruit Vine Health Incorporated (KVH) for the purpose of funding the industry's Aggressive Management Assistance Package to assist in the containment and control of Psa. As a result of this resolution, the Loyalty Contract has been modified to allow for a deduction from the second instalment of the Loyalty Premium if required.

#### Please note:

- Any deduction relating to KVH will be from the second instalment of the Loyalty Premium that would normally be paid in June 2012;
- The deduction may be up to \$0.15 per Class 1 tray supplied to ZESPRI FOBS. The actual amount of the deduction will be agreed by the IAC and notified to the industry by 7 June 2012.

#### For key changes refer to:

- ZESPRI Loyalty Contract 2011 Enhanced Three Year Rolling Grower Contract (found on The Canopy Growers ZESPRI Grower Contracts)
  - Part A – first paragraph amendment
  - Clause 8 – new clause
- ZESPRI Loyalty Contract – Three Year Rolling Grower Contract Full Terms and Conditions (found on The Canopy /Growers/ZESPRI Grower Contracts)
  - Clause 10 – new clause

### When does a grower need to complete a new Loyalty Contract?

- If a grower has not previously signed a ZESPRI Loyalty Contract either directly or via an agent; or
- A grower's 2011 contract arrangements have changed. For example, a grower has changed their post-harvest facility and contract options and will therefore need to change the assignment of their Loyalty Premium proceeds.

For any questions regarding the changes to the 2011 Loyalty Contract or opting out of loyalty agreements please call the ZESPRI Grower Contact Centre on 0800 155 355 or email [contactcanopy@zespri.com](mailto:contactcanopy@zespri.com)

### Expressions of Interest: New Variety Pre-commercial Trials

ZESPRI is seeking expressions of interest from growers keen to participate in a pre-commercial block trial commencing this winter.

Each year, the ZESPRI Board reviews data on each potentially promising new cultivar in clonal trials of the ZESPRI new variety programme and decides whether to put some in to pre-commercial block trials. Growers will be selected based on specific criteria, including the location and quality of the site and the ability for the site to deliver high fruit yields in the shortest possible time following grafting.

Growers need to register early to ensure any approved pre-commercial trials can be promptly established following the June Board meeting. This process should not be confused with the new varieties licence release in June 2011. Expression of Interest forms are available on The Canopy, or by calling the ZESPRI Grower

Contact Centre on 0800 155 355. Any queries can be directed to Grower Liaison

Managers or Grower Services Coordinator, Leisha Parr (phone 07 572 7687 or email: [leisha.parr@zespri.com](mailto:leisha.parr@zespri.com)).

### Psa Research and Development Update

ZESPRI, working alongside Kiwifruit Vine Health, has appointed Innovation Leader Greg Clark to manage the Psa research and development portfolio.

Greg has recently returned from visiting leading horticultural research laboratories in Europe and the United States to seek out global expertise to focus on understanding and managing Psa. "We already have some of New Zealand's best scientists working on Psa and we are now talking and working with leading scientists in bacteriology and plant physiology on the topic of Psa," said Greg.

"Other kiwifruit industries and foreign governments have also indicated they are wanting to support the work the New Zealand kiwifruit industry is doing on Psa." ZESPRI CEO Lain Jager said ZESPRI is committed to funding and leading the research and development programme on Psa. "Psa is the greatest challenge our industry has faced since 1992. If the industry is to overcome Psa then we need to remain united and work together to ensure there is a coordinated and unwavering focus on overcoming this challenge.

"With our experience in managing innovation programmes, ZESPRI has a key role to play in driving the research and development efforts," Lain said. Growers will be regularly informed of progress in the area of research and development through both KVH communications, the Kiwiflier and The Canopy ([www.zespricanopy.com](http://www.zespricanopy.com)).

*Extracts from May Kiwiflier*



#### Information Disclaimer

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