



# on the vine

## The 2011 OPAC Grower Newsletter

Issue 9

### *from the Managing Director*

At the end of this week I will be heading overseas to meet up with Zespri representatives in our export markets and will have the opportunity to see the outturn of the last vessel into Europe which will enable us to have a good look at OPAC's fruit once it meets the market. All indications at this end are pointing towards another good year with minimal fruit loss. I will cover this more in depth in next month's newsletter.

I will also be spending a week in Italy and visiting orchards as they approach harvest in their autumn. It will be a good time to understand how they have survived another summer with Psa, as it would seem things are on the improve and in particular Hayward crops are looking good this year.

I know some of you may be tired of Psa but the Momentum conference was a great way to update in fast track mode everything that is currently underway. The conference offered a highly interactive opportunity to understand the latest in Psa R&D and experience, mixed with some entertaining and motivational speakers.

It was ironic that within a few short days of finishing this conference we had our first case in Opotiki. At this point our Gisborne and Hawkes Bay Growers continue the role of Psa FREE areas - long may it last for them.....

The Opotiki Regional KVH Group has been doing an excellent job. Meetings are held regularly and newsletters are distributed to growers after each meeting in the

aim to keep growers informed about what is being discussed and recommended from the group. OPAC are very supportive of this group and carry out all the day to day administration that is required to be able to continue to operate proactively. It is appropriate to specifically comment that Katie is doing a great job in facilitating this communication and Adrian Gault is leading the group well. Thanks to you both.

Now we know Psa is literally on our doorstep Growers are reminded they are welcome to come along to the fortnightly Action Group meetings to keep themselves more directly informed about recent happenings. I am sure the committee would cover off any recent topical issues in the first half hour to allow Growers to update on local events and then allow the committee to deliberate on any other technical issues.

These are very dark times we now head into. Courage and perseverance will be required (and a large dose of good luck!) for us to prevail. As I have commented more than once before, if we are going to beat the threat to our orchards from Psa then it will take a strong and co-ordinated response of a like minded and committed group to win. Just like the All Blacks whose predicted supremacy came true at the Rugby World Cup we must continue to believe the predications of victory over Psa will also prove to be correct!

OPAC and OPAC Growers as a team can lead the way in this battle!

Craig Thompson

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### *Key dates*

**Gisborne Grower Update**  
**Thursday 3rd November**  
**4pm onwards**  
**Bushmere Arms**

**OGL Meeting**  
**Wednesday 9th November**  
**9am-12 noon**  
**OPAC Opotiki**

**Opotiki Grower Update**  
**Wednesday 30th November**  
**4pm onwards**  
**OPAC Opotiki**

**Gisborne Growers Christmas**  
**Thursday 8th December**  
**Gisborne Wine Centre**

## Technical Update

With PSA developments in the Opotiki region the landscape is changing a bit. We must however continue orchard best practice in order to have a saleable crop this season.

### Hort16A

Try to keep an open canopy to minimise summer work and avoid shading. This is done through ripping out blanks, tip squeezing or rolling, removing whole vigorous shoots and/or the use of bio stimulants such as Benefit© at high rates. Consider carrying a higher than normal cropload to assist in holding the vigour back. When doing any canopy work try to work around protective sprays.

### Hayward

The budburst is looking variable around the regions. The lack of winter chilling looks to have had an effect with warmer sites setting lower numbers. With the focus this year being to minimise cutting in the canopy you will need to look at tip squeezing earlier than normal with a focus on the ends especially in opposing female blocks. With a low floral budbreak in places keep an eye on non floral shoots, several rounds removing blank shoots may be required. As per the gold try to carry out canopy work around protective sprays.

### New Varieties

Flowering is fast approaching in all 3 of the new varieties. As both of the golds set a huge volume this will need to be addressed. Ideally you want to reduce crop load prior to pollination. For a first crop in the G9 & G3 I think that somewhere between 30 – 50 fruit per m2 would be suitable. The range between these levels is dependant on the rootstock condition, how well the leaders developed over summer, whether irrigation is available, and the level of risk that the grower is willing to take. When reducing flower buds on gold always take from the top down.

Brendan McQuade



## Grower Pool Update

	Gold October	Gold YTD
Average	\$0.56	\$5.67
Highest	\$1.02	\$8.89
Lowest	\$0.31	\$2.90

	Green October	Green YTD
Average	\$0.41	\$2.17
Highest	\$1.04	\$3.82
Lowest	\$0.05	\$1.18

### Invitation to all kiwifruit growers

A combined Church service on the 30th October at 7pm in the St Joseph Catholic Church is being held to support the local kiwifruit community.

The theme is PSA

- Prayer
- Solidarity
- Action

An invitation is extended to all.

For further info please contact Murray and Marilyn Thompson

### Psa Update- 26 October 2011

We have 43 new Psa-V positive results this week, bringing the total number of orchards with Psa-V confirmed to 434.

- 1 in the Waihi region
- 3 in the Katikati region
- 14 in the Tauranga region
- 408 in the Te Puke region
- 7 in the Whakatane region
- 1 in the Opotiki region
  
- Most of the new Psa-V results this week have been on Green
- This week we have a new Psa-V result on an orchard in Opotiki. KVH has established the Opotiki Priority Zone, including 190 KPINs with 848 hectares of kiwifruit orchards
- 72% of NZ's kiwifruit hectares are now in a Priority Zone
  
- 19% of NZ's kiwifruit hectares are on an orchard with a Psa-V positive result
- 85% of Te Puke's Gold hectares are on an orchard with a positive Psa-V result

## Industry Updates

### ZESPRI Supports the Rugby World Cup Fun

ZESPRI were among thousands of locals to get up-close and personal with famous All Blacks – Dan Carter, Richard Kahui and Isaia Toeava in Te Puke. The AB's were given a tray of ZESPRI® Kiwifruit which they tucked into immediately and commented how delicious it was.

Hairy Berry was there to support the fans, giving out samples of ZESPRI® Kiwifruit and spifes and coordinating fun games for the children.

Continuing the world cup theme, ZESPRI also welcomed Namibia's RWC team and their entourage to Te Puke. The Namibian team has been officially adopted by Te Puke during their time in New Zealand for the RWC. Once again ZESPRI added to the hype by sampling ZESPRI® Kiwifruit, spifes and the now popular ZESPRI goal post game came out again.

ZESPRI's Communications Coordinator, Nicky Geary, was there to coordinate the ZESPRI activity. "The new ZESPRI® SUNGOLD went down a real treat with the Namibian rugby team – they absolutely loved it." said Nicky.

On Friday 16 September 2011 ZESPRI attended the Hamilton Community Day run in conjunction with the city hosting the New Zealand versus Japan game that evening. ZESPRI was a huge hit with kiwifruit sampling and the goal post game for the children.

Finally on Thursday 22 September 2011 ZESPRI was in Rotorua giving away ZESPRI® Kiwifruit to hundreds of excited, Irish-supporting school children during their lunch break. Members of the Irish RWC Team arrived in the afternoon to a welcoming Haka performed by the

school's Kapa Haka group before enjoying some ZESPRI® SUNGOLD.

The last event on the schedule is Taste Auckland where ZESPRI will again sample kiwifruit over the four days from Wednesday 19 October to Saturday 22 October – if you are going to the event please come over to Victoria Park say hi and get your vitamin-packed sample to keep you going all day.

### ZESPRI uses Asia Fruit Logistica to Develop New Relationships

Asia Fruit Logistica was held in Hong Kong between 7 September and 9 September 2011. With over 300 exhibitors from 30 countries, the Asian trade event is becoming the mainstay of the regional fruit industry calendar. Close to 5,000 visitors attended over the three days. The show provides an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from all over the wider Pacific region.

For ZESPRI, many existing customers come to discuss the current season potential, and new distributors come to see what partnerships can be forged for the future, particularly for developing regions such as India, Middle East, and Russia. Retail and complementary supply partners are also on hand to catch-up on business activity.

The show allows ZESPRI to showcase its promotional activities and vibrant brand image through the colourful stand and promotional staff. Customers were also given the opportunity to taste the three newly commercialised varieties, with really positive feedback being given.

*Extracts from the September Kiwiflier*

### Prototype phage formulations are ready for plant trials

As part of the global research and development programme into the kiwifruit vine killing disease Psa, ZESPRI is looking to the use of bacteriophage (phage) as a biological control agent for the Psa-V bacteria.

Phage are viruses that infect and kill bacteria. As the natural predator to bacteria, phage are found in almost every environment in nature, including within the food we eat and the water we drink. As a biological control phage are nontoxic to humans, plants and animals, leave no residues and are perfectly safe with no harmful side effects. This is a tremendous advantage when it comes to worker re-entry into the fields, through to packaging of the produce, and all the way down to end-user consumption.

Omnilytics is the world-leader in phage technology, especially in the control of plant pathogens in horticultural crops. Omnilytics have identified 10 phage that specifically kill Psa-V. Three of the most effective phage have been amplified and used to develop a prototype formulation for the biological control of Psa-V. This phage formulation will be tested in vitro and in greenhouse potted plant trials starting this month. Depending on results the phage formulation will progress to field trials in October. Results will be made available to growers on the 'Product Testing' page of the KVH website.

[www.kvh.org.nz](http://www.kvh.org.nz)



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