

**BOP YOUNG FRUIT GROWER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

Aongatete were again proud to be Silver Sponsors of this year's competition and are delighted that it's own Grower Services Rep, Aaron Hokopaura succeeded in coming a great second place! Congratulations again Aaron!!

The competition, held at Mills Reef in Bethlehem, was a day-long event in which the contestants competed in a range of theoretical and practical activities and ended with a speech and quiz at the evening meal. The winner received a cash prize of \$1,000, the runner-up \$750 and the second runner-up \$500, plus the winner has the opportunity to compete for national titles in the NZ Young Fruit Grower and the young Grower of the Year competitions. Thank you to all who supported the event and Aaron on the day—below are some 'action' photo's!

**ZESPRI GROWER ROAD SHOWS**

Zespri has rescheduled its Grower roadshow meetings usually held at the beginning of September. The meetings will now be held from 1 to 8 July—please see schedule below for details of a meeting in your area:

<b>Tuesday 5 July</b>	<b>Opotiki:</b> Woodlands Settlers Hall, Woodlands Road, Opotiki	10.00am—12.00pm
<b>Wednesday 6 July</b>	<b>Te Puke:</b> TePuke Sports & Recreation Club, Atuaroa Ave, TePuke	10.00am—12.00pm
	<b>Tauranga:</b> Village Hall, Historic Village, Tauranga	2.00pm—4.00pm
	<b>Katikati:</b> Katikati Rugby Club, Moore Park, Fairview Road, Katikati	6.00pm—8.00pm
<b>Friday 8 July</b>	<b>Auckland:</b> Counties Inn, 17 Paerata Road, Pukekohe	10.00am—12.00pm
	<b>Waikato:</b> Prince Albert, Victoria Street, Cambridge	2.30pm—4.30pm

**Aongatete Orchard and Grower Services Teams**

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# AONGATETE NEWS



JUNE 2016 | ISO WEEKS 22-26 www.coolstore.co.nz | enquiry@coolstore.co.nz

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 GROWER ROAD SHOWS
**HORTICULTURAL TEAM UPDATE continued...**

Probably the biggest issue for the harvest teams has been the loadout areas, where we have struggled at times with loading fruit out of very small and/or poorly constructed and maintained loadout pads, the risk to fruit quality increases dramatically where we are forced to work in muddy conditions and our harvest times are slowed where we have insufficient space, particularly on larger orchards. My point in making these comments is to encourage those of you who are sitting looking at churned up loadout areas and damaged access ways to seriously begin thinking about addressing this issue for next year, it would be much appreciated, the benefits are tangible and we are more than happy to assist in any way if we could.

Enough about harvest!, with a day or two of well-earned rest it's time to get seriously into winter canopy management, for us the crucial factors to maximise production in 2017 is to focus on uniformity and timing of all vine husbandry operations – and that starts now with winter pruning.

The Focus for our winter management is initially on our G3 and early start Green orchards, which are part of our Kiwistart management programme, then onto our Mainpack orchards. Once again this year we are focusing on maintaining a flat vine structure with an open canopy using primary fruit stalk cane which has pregnant buds with medium vigour males that are open and then controlling these so they do not go over onto the female canopy when tied down".

This year's harvest results have really shown us how critical it is to prune and manage for Kiwistart if your orchard is a traditional Kiwistart orchard, with the focus needing to be on improved dry matter and taste for next season its imperative to set targets now for all canopy work. With our Kiwistart Hayward orchards we are targeting 9,500 to 10,500 trays per hectare, a size profile of 30 – 33 count and for our G3 orchards 14 – 15,000 trays per hectare at an average size 30. For Mainpack Hayward orchards we are targeting 11,500 plus trays per hectare, and our G3 orchards 16,000 trays plus per hectare. Cane spacing once again will be critical with our targets being 300 to 350mm for Hayward and 400 – 450mm for G3. We have set initial targets of 25 – 30 buds per square metre with adjustments for each individual orchard as we progress through pruning and as cane quality dictates.

Good luck with your winter prune!

**Derek Edwards—Horticulture Business Manager 027 543 0741**



## CROP PROTECTION

### Psa Copper Program

- Apply Nordox 75 WG ® at 70 gm/100L and an approved wetting agent before and after pruning for both Hayward and Gold3, both to be applied at 600L/ ha of water.

### Cicada (PVH) program

- Apply Telstar ® at 100 ml/100L and Engulf ®partner penetrant (before pruning) at 1000L/ ha of water.
- For PVH spray at 800L/ha including wood structures and host plants surrounding blocks.
- Copper should not be applied within 3 days before or after Telstar application.
- Bud-break enhancers should not be applied within 3 days before or after Telstar application.
- Re-entry period of 48 hours, so plan precisely with pruning gangs.

### Fertiliser programs

All soil tests have been completed and with the results back from the lab I am finalising the recommendations which will be available at the end of June. The timing guideline below should be used in conjunction with the rates and products recommended for best results.

Gold (GA)	Green (HW)	Product
Early July	Early July	Lime/ Gypsum
Late July	Early August	Winter base
Late August	Early September	Bud Burst (side dressing)
Late October	Early November	Pre Flower (side dressing)
Early December (with rain)	Early December (with rain)	Summer (side dressing)

With another year of high yields in the 2015-16 season for both Hayward and Gold3, we are seeing a slight decrease in nutrients within the soil. We have increased the nutrient management program to allow for the soil to get back to its optimal levels of all nutrients while supporting higher yields.

Please let us know if you would like Aongatete to organise fertiliser and spreading for you. Also if you want a separate copy of the soil test ahead of the final report please contact me.

**Ethan England—Horticulture Technical Team Leader 021 021 57062**

## GLOBALG.A.P.

We would like to draw your attention to forthcoming changes for GLOBALG.A.P and have highlighted points from the Zespri 'Up2date' article in issue 23, under the heading: "Changes are coming...get prepared for Zespri GAP 2016"...as follows:

"The most significant changes to the Zespri GAP requirements is the introduction of eight new questions in the area of worker welfare specifically covering employment conditions including minimum wage, records of working hours and employment contracts. These changes are the result of the inclusion of an add-on module of GLOBALG.A.P called GRASP (GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment for Social Practice).....

"There are also a number of changes in the area of water management covering food safety, water testing and consent conditions. Most growers will be required to conduct a water test at least annually in order to meet the new standard."

We encourage you to refer to the latest "Up2date" issues on the Zespri Canopy regarding GLOBALG.A.P changes. Please feel free to contact me if you would like assistance with your GLOBALG.A.P.

**Janice Whitehead - Aongatete GAP Auditor 027 511 4443**

## CROP MANAGEMENT

The argument currently being advanced for crop management is basically one of supply and demand (greater supply and lower demand-economics 1!) combined with the fact that we are dealing with a perishable product that diminishes in value over time (Fruit Loss). Therefore if the supplied crop is greater than that which Zespri had planned to market then the 'extra' trays would end up in the highest Fruit Loss period at the end of the season.

If you do the sums for the final sales of the year and account for the negative effect of the extra fruit loss and coolstorage incurred it is a "no brainer". Would it be cheaper to dump this 'extra' fruit at the earliest possible stage?

Managing on the vine would be ideal and this would have been the case if a high proportion of the crop failed to reach the minimum TZG. The autumn temperatures favoured growth and most crops passed the TZG hurdle. The industry therefore chose the next cheapest option which was to "manage" a proportion over the grader. As the final crop was still not known at this time the option to "manage" further crop at a later stage (with different commercials) was left open.

The question that is left in my mind is could Zespri have adjusted its marketing plans so that the extra crop (above the original estimate) was sold earlier and not effectively left until the end of the season? The case for crop management needs a clear answer to this question!

**Allan Dawson**

## NEW G3 LICENCES

Zespri have announced the outcome of the 2016 G3 Licence Release with 266 successful bids for the 400 Ha released. With a strong interest in the licence the median price per hectare incl GST was \$200,000 for the Restricted Closed Tender and \$192,500 for the Unrestricted Closed Tender.

The licence release and outcome will be one of the items for discussion at the July Zespri Roadshows (please note times for your area in the upcoming events section of our newsletter).

For those who have been successful in obtaining new licence please note the following important dates:

**From 27 June** Zespri Budwood Store opens from 10am to 2pm (Mon, Wed and Fri). This is to supply female budwood for those who don't already have it on their KPINS. Full details on procedures and forms required for collection are available on the Zespri Canopy Website.

**30 June** 10am - Tiree Orchard: 24 Chard Road, Katikati a refresher on grafting fieldday is being run by Zespri OPC.

2.00pm—Ranui Orchard, 120 Casuarina Drive, Te Puke

A further reminder that we are supporting our Growers by offering to store budwood pre-grafting—the Terms and Conditions to ensure protocols are met are available from the Grower Services Team.

Aongatete's team have a wealth of knowledge on conversion to G3, we are keen to help so if you require any assistance please contact your Grower Services Rep.

**Tracey Chinnery—Aongatete Grower Services Manager 021 664 276**

