

EastPack Update

Industry Update

We are short of fruit!

It's official – Zespri is short of kiwifruit for the market. As the national crop volumes have reduced from a high of 113 million Class 1 trays in 2011 to an expected 84 million Class 1 trays this year (down 25%) the supply and demand equation has swung heavily towards demand exceeding supply.

It is extremely unfortunate that this situation is brought about by one single factor – Psa. However, the signs are looking a lot more positive, we are now cautiously optimistic that the recovery of the tray volumes via G3 (GA or Sun Gold) will eventuate. Whilst the hot and dry summer had a negative impact on a lot of the 2013 yields, the recently grafted G3 plants have flourished. Also it is most encouraging that growers' on-orchard management and general knowledge on how best to limit and control Psa continues to develop and evolve.

EastPack Update

As of Queen's Birthday:

- Virtually all Whakatane and Whangarei fruit has been harvested.
- Approximately 200,000 trays are left to harvest in the Opotiki area.
- Te Puke, Tauranga and Katikati areas have approximately four more days of picking remaining.

2013 Highlights

- **The merger** – the whole integration of EastPack and Satara has gone particularly smoothly and continues to evolve and develop in a most positive manner.

With the overall crop reductions the rationale for the merger is even more compelling. By merging EastPack and

Satara as one company we are in a far stronger position than we would have been if we had remained as standalone companies.

The way the Grower Services/Orchard Management team gelled quickly into one business unit to help in the smooth running of the harvest operation was testament to that.

- Operationally, the packing has also gone from strength to strength as the season progressed. The Te Puke Collins Lane, Katikati and Whangarei sites had to adapt to considerable change in the information and quality systems. The way the change has been accepted and implemented is a credit to all concerned. The Kiwi attitude of "let's just get on and do it" quickly became evident and at the end of the day we are all one team working towards the common goal of "world class orchard to market".
- Crop volumes are down significantly by 20-25% in both the Whakatane and Opotiki regions. The final numbers are not known but reductions of 20-25% compared to the March estimate are common and in some cases a lot worse. The combination of Psa in the spring of 2012 and the 70 year drought are the principal causes. There will be a major focus from our Grower Services/Orchard Management team in the Whakatane and Opotiki regions. They will be focusing on each individual orchard's situation and how best to restore orchard productivity.
- In contrast to the Eastern Bay of Plenty there were some fantastic results in the Te Puke and Tauranga areas, where a number of growers experienced record crop volumes – often in excess of 15,000 trays per hectare.

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- We are likely to be in a period of supply and demand for all of our varieties for at least the next three to four years. As a company and industry we need to capture the learnings of this year and apply them as widely as possible. This will help continue to restore orchard and post-harvest asset values as well as profitability.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank all EastPack growers for their support in what has been an extremely challenging six months. With the merge of EastPack and Satara being so close to the start of the packing season, it has stretched all of our resources to the limit. For everyone who has assisted with this successful merger, your efforts are much appreciated. We now turn our attention to maximising your fruit whilst in coolstore for the balance of the season.

Regards



Tony Hawken
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Winter pruning with Psa-V

Psa is an important consideration when undertaking winter pruning.

Regardless of where you are Psa is a real threat and you will need to be able to mitigate the risk to your orchard in the coming season. The only effective tools that we have to mitigate the risk over winter are protective cover sprays.

These are the copper sprays:

- Nordox 75WG
- Kocide Opti
- Champ DP



These products are protective cover sprays. They have to be placed on the outside of the kiwifruit plant as there are no treatments that can successfully kill Psa once it becomes established inside the plant.

Good spray coverage is imperative.

You should have a complete protective cover in place prior to the start of winter pruning. This will include sprays to protect the picking scars on the end of the fruit stalks and the leaf scars where the leaves have dropped off the canes.

The risks to your cover will be:

- **Breaks in the cover**
This includes any cuts that you have to make or any injury to the vine that may provide an entry point for Psa. You will need to re-establish the cover on those breaks as soon as is practical. This will include spraying immediately after winter pruning.
- **Use of ineffective products**
Do not get sucked in by the salesman's

patter. You may feel the need to try some new things and this is great, but make sure that you have an effective cover in place or if that is not practical, that you are only experimenting with something that you can afford to lose.

Winter Pruning

All cuts will have to be treated to re-establish your protective cover.

- Paint all saw cuts with some sort of wound sealing dressing.
- Spray all of the winter pruning cuts with a standard copper solution. Do this as soon as practical after the cut is made.
- Pruning tools should be treated to disinfect them bay by bay or plant by plant.
- Encourage the larger lopper cuts to be made with a saw instead. This will make a cleaner cut which can then be painted giving a more reliable result.

Pruning should only be done when the canopy is dry. Psa needs free water to move so pruning wet canopies or wet wood is a significantly high risk and should be avoided.

Tying down and clipping winter canopies can be done on the damp days.



The aim of winter pruning is to set up the framework which will carry next year's crop.

In Hayward this framework should consist of good quality fruit stalk wood of moderate vigour with prominent buds that have been grown in sunlight for the whole of the season.

This wood should be evenly spaced with 35-40 cm gaps between the fruiting wood in all directions.



Pruning Gold varieties

The principle for winter pruning Gold (including G3) is just the same – moderate vigour, well lit (grown in sunlight) fruiting wood with prominent (fat) buds and short internodes, well spaced.

The real difference with Gold is that it is both much more vigorous and much more floral than Hayward.

The key to pruning Gold is to limit the number of buds to the sort of number that you need and to have these buds on the best possible quality winter wood.

Because of its relatively vigorous growth habit, it is important that Gold canopies are kept as flat as possible.

Prune out all the vertical growth, spurs, stubs and any hooped structures that may still be part of the permanent framework.

Step by Step Winter Prune

Establish the framework to carry next year's crop.

1. Remove the obsolete and unsuitable wood. This is a skilled job and involves significant decision making. It may be considered to be separate from the normal winter prune.



2.
 - a. Make any saw cuts that may be necessary.
 - b. Take out any wood that is not to be considered part of the pruning job.
 - c. Paint the saw cuts with a pruning paint.
3. Remove all the spent wood.
4. Remove all the weak wood (thinner than pencil thickness) and all the shaded or late grown hairy wood.
5. Select the best quality wood and tie down. Use a clip for each wire and secure the ends of canes with a bungy if they are overhanging.
6. Adjust the spacings, 30-40cm in each direction for Hayward and the same for Gold varieties.
7. Maintain at least a 30cm space between the wood of opposing females.



8. Maintain at least the 30cm spacing between female wood and male wood.
9. Adjust the bud numbers.
 - a. Count the bud numbers in a number of bays each day as they are being pruned.
 - b. Reduce the buds to your target range if they are too high by

removing the weakest wood and adjusting the spacings.

10. Fine tune the winter prune. Ideally this can be done at a later time.
 - a. Go through the pruning bay by bay and focus on removing weak and late grown wood.
 - b. Remove any vertical stubs or spurs.
 - c. Remove wood that is too thin.
 - d. Adjust the spacings.
 - e. Secure any unsupported canes or spurs with a bungy.
 - f. Try to even up any bays that stand out as being too different.
 - g. Check on the bud numbers in several bays in each maturity area and adjust if necessary.

Winter pruning Psa protocols

Psa protocols for orchards during winter pruning.

Tools

Tools used to cut kiwifruit vines are potentially a high risk because they make direct contact with the vascular tissue of the vine.

The risk is of unclean tool contact vine to vine.

- Only clean tools should be allowed to be used on the orchard.
 - Consider having a set of pruning tools exclusively for use on each orchard. This will eliminate the risk of disease being brought to the orchard from somewhere else.
 - Otherwise **all** pruning tools must be thoroughly cleaned by soaking in a suitable sanitiser and any plant residues being scrubbed off before pruning starts.
 - Alternatively a hot flame from a blow torch or similar can be used to sanitise the cutting surfaces.

- Pruning tools should be sanitised between plants.
 - Spraying with a suitable sanitiser or soaking in a bucket of sanitiser solution.



- Cut surfaces should be treated with a Psa protectant product as soon as practical after cutting.
 - Cuts of more than 10-12mm should be treated with a suitable pruning paint.
 - Pruned blocks should be sprayed with a suitable Psa protectant product (copper) as soon as is practical after pruning or at least before the next high risk weather event.

Psa symptoms

Obvious cane withering or weeping canker should be removed separately, preferably before the main winter pruning starts.

This material should be treated carefully and disposed of by burying or burning.

If there is an excessive amount it can be mulched up fine on the orchard floor and a sanitiser added. Adding some nitrogen (urea) can help speed up the breakdown of this material.

Vehicles and people

- Vehicles should keep to the formed tracks and not be free to be driven to any area where there is a risk of direct contact with vines.
- People should come to the orchard in a clean set of clothes.
- If they are coming to work on your orchard directly from another orchard, it is a good idea for them to bring and change into a fresh set of clothes.
- No children or pets should be allowed on orchard.

Technically Speaking continued

Use of coppers for Psa protection – a thumbnail sketch

Why Coppers?

- Coppers have been used for bacterial disease control in fruit crops around the world for more than 150 years.
- We are still using coppers today because we have not found anything that works better on bacterial diseases in fruit crops.

How do Coppers work?

- Coppers are protectant bactericides, they have to be present on the plant before the pathogen arrives.
- Coppers sit on the outside surface of the plant.
- Coppers work by releasing cupric and cuprous ions on the plant surface when water is present.
- The copper ions cross the cell membrane of the bacterium and physically disrupt its metabolic function (kills it).
- Complete coverage of the plant surface with the copper product is required for complete protection.

- The smaller the particle size of the copper product, the longer the retention on the plant surface.
- The smaller the particle size of the copper product, the more cupric and cuprous ions are released. The more active the product.

Cautions around the use of coppers on kiwifruit.

- Soluble copper may cause phytotoxicity on kiwifruit leaves.
- Copper inside plant tissues can be very destructive. Avoid using systemic coppers or chelated products.
- Coppers may cause minor russetting on kiwifruit.
- Copper protectant sprays must be applied in good drying conditions.
- The pH of the copper spray solution must be near neutral (pH 6.5-7.5).

- Copper sprays should **not** be applied to kiwifruit with a surfactant (wetting agent).
- Do not use copper products that contain surfactants or solvents. (liquid coppers).
- The protection provided by a copper spray will be only as good as the spray coverage.
- Any gaps in the spray coverage will be gaps in the protection provided.
- Coppers may slow down the rate of extension growth in kiwifruit.
- More applications of copper at lower rates is more effective and less likely to cause phytotoxicity than applying high rates in fewer applications.

Always apply coppers on their own.

Winter Psa spray programme 2013

WHEN	WHY	PRODUCT AND RATE PER 100 L	NOTES
Immediately after harvest	To protect picking wounds	Use Nordox at 37.5-55g (or Kocide Opti at 70-90g)	Target the picking scar at the end of the fruit stalk. Use lower pressure and no fan.
After the start of leaf drop	To speed up leaf drop	Urea at 2kg Repeat as required	Use a wetting agent*, spray under slow drying conditions, target the upper leaf surface.
Approx half way through leaf fall	To protect the leaf scars	Use Nordox at 37.5-55g (or Kocide Opti at 70-90g)	Time the application to provide cover before the next major rain event.
At the end of leaf fall	To protect the leaf scars	Use Nordox at 37.5-55g (or Kocide Opti at 70-90g)	As close to the end of leaf fall as can be managed.
Immediately after winter pruning	To protect pruning cuts and cracked canes	Use Nordox at 37.5-55g (or Kocide Opti at 70-90g)	No closer than seven days before or seven days after Hi-Cane spray
As close to bud burst as possible	To protect the bud scale split	Use Nordox at 37.5-55g Kocide Opti at 70-90g)	Target fruiting wood

Notes:

1. When spraying winter coppers make sure the spray is targeted to the wood, use an appropriate water rate (approx 600 to 700L/ha) and make sure the coverage is as close to perfect as possible.
2. Copper sulphate at 1.25kg / 100L plus a wetting agent*, can be substituted for the urea leaf drop spray or both can be used together.
3. Always apply copper protectant sprays on their own!

*Use up any Sporekill that you might have left over.

Orchard Operations Reminder



June

- Make a plan for the 'Psa recovery pathway' for your orchard.
- Start preparing for grafting to New Variety.
 - Repair structures.
 - Cut off canopy and remove old leader wire.
 - Mulch prunings.
 - Spray weed strips.
- Manage leaf drop process.
 - Note: Do not start before leaf drop has started naturally.
- Apply copper spray to protect leaf scars from Psa.

- Start winter pruning.
 - Only prune in dry weather.
 - Sanitise all tools at least every plant.
- Apply copper spray to protect winter pruning cuts.

July

- Take soil samples and arrange a fertiliser recommendation if not already done.
- Prepare for grafting to New Variety.
 - Repair structures.
 - Cut off canopy and remove old leader wire.
 - Paint stumps.
 - Mulch prunings.
 - Spray weed strips.
- Continue winter pruning.
 - Only prune in dry weather.
 - Sanitise all tools at least every plant.
- Apply copper spray to protect winter pruning cuts.

- Collect New Variety graft wood and start grafting.
- Graft to New Variety.
 - String for graft support.
 - Apply slug and snail bait.
- Apply base fertiliser.
- Organise Teepee poles and strings.

August

- Finish grafting to New Variety.
 - String for graft support.
 - Apply slug and snail bait.
- Start erecting teepee poles and strings.
- Complete winter prune and tie down Hayward.
- Apply copper spray to protect winter pruning cuts.
- Apply HiCane to Hayward.
- Apply base fertiliser dressings.
- Complete repairs of support structures.
- Do final pruning review.
- Take a break!

Kiwifruit Rootstocks for the future

The kiwifruit industry is based on the use of *Actinidia deliciosa* seedlings as the most common rootstock. These are commonly known as Bruno or Bruno seedlings. There is a small amount of Kaimai a clonal rootstock used to improve floralness and taste but infamously difficult to graft.

In later times seedling or cuttings of *Actinidia chinensis* have been used primarily as a rootstock for Hort 16A.

With our new reality of Psa tolerance to this virulent disease is the new imperative. To date only Bruno seedlings and a new clonal selection Bounty 71, are showing a commercial level of Psa tolerance.

Bounty 71

Bounty71 is a rootstock that was identified in a 1997 rootstock trial. The vines were grown in a research setting without the use of exogenous growth regulators (hydrogen cyanamide, Benefit®, pruning gels) or intensive canopy management commonly used in commercial orchards. Hort16A was the only scion used in this initial trial.

Bounty 71 traits in the 1997 trial

- **Flower numbers and fruit size**
When compared to the Bruno rootstock the Bounty71 rootstock promoted higher flower numbers and larger fruit size from the Hort16A scion, resulting in higher yields of export quality fruit.

Continued over



Technically Speaking continued

Rootstocks for the future continued

- **Dry matter**

Overall Hort16A fruit dry matter content was similar or higher with the Bounty71 rootstock, despite the increase in average fruit fresh weight. Hort16A fruit growing on the Bounty71 rootstock matured earlier and had higher soluble solids, lower hue angle and lower firmness in storage when harvested on the same date as the fruit grown on the other rootstocks.

- **Canopy**

The Bounty71 rootstock caused Hort16A to produce a slightly less vigorous and more open canopy than that produced by the Bruno and Kaimai rootstocks, primarily because of an increased frequency of self terminated shoots. Overall the data suggest that the mechanism for increased flowering, fruit size and dry matter with this rootstock could be a decrease in partitioning of carbohydrate resources to vegetative growth and an increase towards fruit development and storage reserves.

- **Budburst/Flowering timing**

The rootstocks in this trial had significant effects on the vigour of Hort16A shoot growth, numbers of flowers per winter bud, and fruit development, but have only minor effects on the timing of budburst and timing of flowering once rootstock effects on wood type are accounted for.

- **Grafting**

The Bounty71 rootstock produces high root pressures and copious exudation relatively early in spring, and therefore may need to be started and completed earlier than traditional rootstocks.

- **Commercial Value**

Results obtained from 1999 to 2007 in this trial demonstrate that Bounty71 provides consistent increases in Hort16A fruit size and fruit number without compromising dry matter, when compared to other rootstock in a research setting. Fruit maturity is also consistently earlier and shoot vigour lower.

Subsequent trials and observations

- **Flower numbers and fruit size**

Additional yield and fruit quality data were obtained from new trials established with replicated trials involving Bounty71 rootstock grafted with Hort16A or Hayward at the Te Puke Research Centre. Budbreak and flowering of both Hort16A and Hayward scions were improved by the use of Bounty71 rootstock.

- **Hayward Yield still being understood**

Use of Bounty71 rootstock appeared to reduce the yields of Hayward fruit even though it produced more flowers per winter bud. This was associated with reduced trunk diameter, which could have reduced vine vigour. A change in plant density and/or pruning system may be required to maintain high yields of Hayward vines grafted with Bounty71 rootstock.

- **Tolerance to wet feet**

Grower observations with Bounty71 have suggested that the rootstock is more tolerant to water logged soils than Bruno

rootstock. This was not based on experimental observations therefore Zespri cannot as yet verify the trait. Trials are underway to better understand the commercial benefits of Bounty71 in water logged soils.

- **Bounty71 with Gold3 as the scion**

Trials have been established with Gold3 as the scion on Bounty71. Little quantitative data has yet been obtained. Preliminary data from one orchard assessed to date indicate Bounty71 indicated a negative effect on Gold3 fruit dry matter. The dataset indicated no difference in rootstock effect on fruit soluble solids concentration (SSC), flesh colour or firmness. Data collection is ongoing and Zespri is not yet in a position to recommend the use of Bounty71 with Gold3.

Which Rootstock should be used?

Bruno seedlings can be used with a certain amount of confidence in most situations with most varieties.

Bounty 71 is probably a good consideration where whole blocks or whole orchards are having to be re-established from the ground up due to losses from Psa. Bounty 71 will probably suit double planting, or planting where the plant footprint is around 20m² or less.

Bounty 71 is also probably a good choice for orchards having to be re-established due to losses from flooding or wet feet.



Financial Update

EET Forecast Average Class 1 payments for June 2013 are as follows:

	Loyalty	Estimated June Average
Green	\$0.14	\$0.14
Organic	\$0.14	\$0.14
Gold	\$0.14	\$0.14
GA	\$0.14	\$0.14
GL	\$0.14	\$0.14
HE	\$0.14	\$0.14

The final payment for the 2012 crop (being the loyalty payment) will be paid on 14 June 2013.

KVH accredited plants from Psa-free Nelson

HAYWARD SEEDLINGS 2013 HAYWARD & BRUNO 2014

Grown in containers for autumn planting or in the field for winter planting.

For information on consolidated orders please contact:

Tim Torr | 027-205 7520 | tim.torr@eastpack.co.nz

Natasha Crawford | 03-544 2700 | natasha@waimeanurseries.co.nz

Waimea Nurseries has been supplying quality plants to the fruit and retail garden industries since 1971.



Waimea Nurseries Limited
Golden Hills Road, RD1 Richmond, Nelson 7091
www.waimeanurseries.co.nz

PIPFruit STONEFRUIT KIWIFRUIT CITRUS HOPS OLIVES FEIJOAS NUTS ORNAMENTALS

'Psa free' kiwifruit seedling plants

EastPack has been able to source some "Psa free" kiwifruit seedling plants from Waimea Nurseries in Nelson suitable for planting out this winter as rootstocks. Limited numbers available.

First in first served.

Contact:

Tim Torr – tim.torr@eastpack.co.nz,

Nicky Bird – nicky.bird@eastpack.co.nz

or phone 07-573 9309 to place an order.

EastPack 2014 Calendar Photos

The time has come...

If you have any photos that you wish to be considered for our 2014 EastPack calendar now is the time to start sending these in!

Photos need to be at least 2MB or higher and be really clear due to needing to be enlarged for the calendar. We had some amazing photos submitted last year that weren't able to be considered as they weren't high enough resolution.

It would be great to get a selection of photos from around all the regions so please get your camera lens cap off and your thinking caps on. The photos need to have something to do with kiwifruit or have kiwifruit in the pictures.

For our new growers that have recently joined us, last year we put together a great calendar using our growers' own photos and we are keen to do the same again this year.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me on 07-573 9309 or kyra@eastpack.co.nz.

Happy snapping...



Staff Profiles

TINA GEDSON – FRUIT STORAGE MANAGER, OPOTIKI



Tina's role as Fruit Storage Manager in Opotiki incorporates responsibility for PPQI/SPQI (internal quality checks of packed product), proficiency testing (of grading staff), further work and the laboratory, as well as fruit optimisation. Fruit optimisation is managing the process for assessing the storability of lines of fruit in inventory to ensure the best lines are kept in store for loadout later in the year. Tina has been with EastPack for the past three years with her previous role being Laboratory Manager at the Opotiki site. Prior to employment at EastPack Tina

was self-employed in a variety of different businesses including hospitality, importing, wholesaling and retail. Tina holds a General Manager's Licence from her time in hospitality, First Aid qualifications and a number of Zespri CCPs (quality qualifications).

Outside of work Tina likes to take a laid back approach, enjoying gardening and reading. Tina is married and has four sons ranging in ages from 23 to 34. She has a lifetime of achievements but believes her best one this year is being appointed to the Fruit Storage Manager's role!

RAEWYN ANDERSON – OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION, KATIKATI



Raewyn retired from teaching at the end of 2004 and, with her husband moved from 'The Naki' to Katikati for a variety of reasons.

By February 2005 Raewyn's brain told her it was time to work again and she noticed some advertisements for work at the local packhouses. She walked into the Marshall Road packhouse and was given the job of Office and Administration with the warning that the job could be 'below her station' and may end in June. Nine years later she is still at Marshall Road and still enjoying her role.

Raewyn's role includes employment and time & attendance for 250 plus staff each season. During the season this takes up most of her time but with her desk in the front office and the phone at her side, Raewyn quite often ends up with large piles of other things to do. Having never worked in the kiwifruit industry before Raewyn

had a steep learning curve and enjoys the challenges that confront her in her work.

Apart from her Teachers Certificate, Raewyn says she is unqualified but is a seemingly successful Mum of three children and Nana to seven, with other random qualifications that come with 'life and living'. In her spare time Raewyn enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, reading and amazingly enough, housework! Her favourite pastime of all though is heading off to the US or Australia to see two of her children, while a short trip over to the Waikato is also great with another of her sons living there.

Raewyn does not consider herself to be an achiever, she just likes to be able to do what is put before her and do it well.

Grower Profile

DENE & KATH NICKEL – EDGE CUMBE



Dene and Kath Nickel have been in the kiwifruit industry for eight years, when they started their orchard in Edgecumbe from bare land. They now have 3.54 producing hectares consisting of 2.78ha of Hayward and 0.76ha of Gold3.

When Dene left school 46 years ago he got a job in a drycleaning and laundry business. His wife Kath has also spent 30 years in the same business. The decision to get into the kiwifruit industry was due to both Dene and Kath being worried that they would have nothing to do later on in life.

Dene says, "It's a good life, it has its ups and downs and it's a lot easier money than dry cleaning".

Dene spent the first 14 years of his life on a dairy farm in Te Aroha so he's back on the land again and Kath's happy with that.

Dene and Kath have one son, Russell. Russell is married to Roseanne and Dene and Kath have an eight year old grandchild Shania. They are also half owners in the family business, Coastline Dry Cleaners & Apparelmaster.

When Psa allows, Dene enjoys fishing as well as watching all live sports on TV, especially cricket and rugby. He is also happy out in the garden. In the future Dene would love to do more fishing and go on more holidays as well as plant some more Gold3.

Kiwifruit Cake

c/- Te Puke grower, Diane Atkinson



Ingredients:

125g butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
Diced kiwifruit (approx 6)
1 tsp vanilla essence
2 1/4 cups self raising flour
1/2 tsp baking soda
6 tbsp water

Directions:

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a cake tin.
- 2 Cream butter and sugar, add eggs and other ingredients in order of recipe.

Topping

3 tbsp chopped walnuts 3 tbsp brown sugar
(I use sliced almonds instead) 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
75g soft butter

Directions:

- 1 Mix topping well. Spread over cake mixture.
- 2 Bake 180°C for 40-50 minutes until skewer comes out clean.

If you make the topping a little runny, then it seeps down through the cake while baking.

EASTPACK CYCLE SHIRTS



For those budding cyclists out there, EastPack has had a cycle shirt designed that is available for growers and staff to purchase.

If we put in an order of 10 we can get these for \$100 each, lower if the quantity is larger.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these please either email or contact Kyra on kyra@eastpack.co.nz or 07-573 9309.

New Varieties Update – TIM TORR



New Variety Cut Over – TIM TORR

With the harvest of Gold over, for most of us living with Psa, the next priorities are ones around the cut out of 16A and the change to a more Psa tolerant variety.

The main issues to address at the moment are:

- When to start cutting out Psa affected vines.
- When to start dropping off the leaves of the rest of the 16A.
- How to dispose of the cut out material.
- Preparing for grafting.

When to start cutting out Psa affected vines

This is a bit of a compromise. On one hand, the longer that you can keep some leaf on the plant the better the plant will handle the grafting shock and the more successful the grafting will be. On the other hand, the longer you leave Psa infected vines before cut off, the more risk there is that the rootstock may become infected.



So in practical terms, now is probably late enough that the difference between cutting now or later when leaf drop has started naturally, is not terribly significant.

Best Guess

- Start cutting out the worst affected vines now and deal with unaffected vines or parts of the orchard later once leaf drop has started.
- Use a wound paint to seal the cut stump.



When to start dropping off the leaves of the rest of the 16A

Ideally this should be once the leaf drop process has started naturally. Use a leaf drop spray such as copper sulphate or urea or a combination of both. If the plants are not going to be cut off immediately, apply a protectant (copper) spray to protect the leaf drop scar.

How to dispose of the cut out material

The gold standard is to buck rake the material out to a suitable place to be buried, at least half a metre deep. This is a big job and may be too expensive to be practical in all situations.

The next best solution would be to move the cut off material out to a hole to be burnt in a **hot** fire.

Probably the cheapest method will be to mulch the pruned out canopy and allow it to decompose on the orchard floor. Spraying the canopy with a sanitiser to minimise the inoculum prior to cut off and repeating this to the mulched canopy on the orchard floor is probably a good idea.

The finer the mulching the faster the material will break down. It will also be necessary to add some nitrogen and possibly a digester product to speed up this process some more and ensure that lack of nitrogen does not become a limiting factor to graft growth in the spring. 100-200kg of urea per hectare over this time would be our best guess at this time.

Leaders and leader wires will have to be buried or burnt and buried.



Preparing to graft

Preparation is important. Good preparation will ensure that your grafter is comfortable and happy in your orchard. This will increase the success rate.

Accurate marking of the new grafts will minimise mistakes and the amount of re-grafting required. Completing the leader removal, the mulching and the re-establishment of the new leader wire will minimise the risk of grafts being knocked out.



A few key steps

These should be in place before grafting commences

1. All rows should be weed sprayed with a clear strip established by the time grafting is started.
2. Cut the kiwifruit trunks as high as possible below the leader.
 - These are called the 'tall men'.
 - Where there is more than one trunk, single down to the straightest trunk. If it is not obvious leave it alone.
 - Paint the cut top with a suitable protective paint.
3. Remove the canopy, the leader and leader wire.
4. The orchard should be mown and mulched. The grass should be less than 100mm long.

5. Get the new leader wire established in place.
6. There should be an accurate count of all grafts by variety.
7. All the grafts should be marked correctly.
 - The male grafting positions should all be colour coded with a different colour for each different male variety.
8. Good strong straight rootstock suckers originating from low down on the stump can provide a really good alternative to stump grafting.

The Grafter will:

- Cut the stump to the correct height at the correct place.
- Graft, tape and wax.
- Give some indication of the basics of after graft care.
- Want to be paid a deposit on confirmation of the job.
- Want to be paid the balance owing soon after the completion of the job.

The Grower will:

- Need to arrange the pick up and storage of the budwood.
- Need to arrange storage of some spare budwood for use to re-graft in case of graft failures in November.
- Cut the chainsaw slots in the stump below the graft immediately after grafting or the next day.
 - The upper chainsaw slot cut at right angles to the leader wire.
 - The lower chainsaw slot parallel to the leader wire.
 - Both slots cut with a slight downward angle.

The budwood:

- Will come in bundles approximately 600mm long, bound with colour coded tape and have a label attached describing the variety and source of the budwood.
- Should be more than 10mm in diameter and be early grown wood with only a small central hollow core.

- Should be in a sealed plastic bag.
- Should be stored at a cool temperature and kept moist.

Like most things, careful attention to detailed planning and preparation will help to ensure a successful outcome, so avoid the temptation to cut corners and look after the needs of your grafter.



A Useful Protective Pruning Paint Recipe



Mix in a sealable bucket

- One part Bitumix (any water-based bitumous concrete block sealer paint will do)
- Up to one part water
- Sporekill (or any other soluble disinfectant/sanitiser) at 5ml/litre
- Mix well being careful to avoid splashing skin or clothes as it does not come off easily.
- Stir well before use
- Apply to freshly cut stumps or pruning cuts
- Seal tightly to store

Growing Excellence

Gentle fruit handling

Gentle fruit handling is an important aspect of packing kiwifruit, ensuring it stores well and reaches our customers in optimal condition.

We are continuously looking at ways to improve the techniques used when handling fruit, so have developed a number of assessments that are completed to monitor the picking and packing processes.

EastPack's Quality System starts with our Harvest Auditors who work out in the orchards checking picking technique, bag handling and bin handling during harvest. Any issues or techniques that have the potential to cause fruit damage are worked through with the Picking Supervisor.

In the packhouse it is part of the Team Leaders' and Line Managers' standard work to constantly check for fruit handling issues. These include checks on bin tip settings, grader fruit handling, drop heights, packers catching fruit, stackers handling of boxes and even the forklift drivers moving the fruit into the coolstore. If issues are identified the Team Leader will work with the individuals concerned to correct their technique, and with the Line Manager to adjust the line setup if necessary.

Our Packing Team Leaders and Quality Team then check the placement of fruit in packs to ensure the fruit is level and will not

be squashed when the lid is closed. Some sites also have Production Trainers who complete additional random checks on our teams, whilst all EastPack sites are visited by our Internal Auditors who complete random fruit handling checks during inspections.

To encourage best practice, the Quarry Road site is currently running their "Gentle Fruit Handling" campaign for a second year. Site management has a supply of chocolate fish awards which they give out at random when they catch staff handling fruit gently. These are then redeemed for real chocolate fish at the Global Café.



Orchard Profile – Te Matai Kiwi

Te Matai Kiwi is an EKO-managed orchard in Te Matai Road, Te Puke. The orchard was developed from bare ground and is now one of the better producing orchards in the region.



The Orchard Management team involves David and Andrew Stephenson, quality orchard workers and EastPack's reject rate team. The EKO Orchard Management team also enjoys support and back-up from our administration staff in Edgumbe (Katrina and Sharyn). All have made valuable contributions to the orchard and have helped to increase productivity steadily.

Andrew says they follow good orchard practice and normally average 27-32 buds/

sq. They have irrigation on the orchard, use good Psa practices, hi cane and they girdle twice a year. As well as this they ensure that all jobs get done on time where possible around weather events. Te Matai Kiwi also managed to harvest 1,130kgs of male flowers from the orchard this year.

A summary of the key orchard results over time are below.

	Total trays	te/ha	Average size
2010	103,797	7,446	28.8
2011	145,561	10,442	32.8
2012	148,528	10,655	32.4
2013	210,000 est	15,000 est	33.2

Cuttings

EastPack Rescue

EastPack is proud to be one of the major sponsors of the new Maketu Coastguard vessel, aptly named 'EastPack Rescue'. The 11.75m rescue craft was officially commissioned at a well attended ceremony at Maketu back in April.

EastPack Rescue has already been involved in a number of rescue operations.

A 111 call came through at 7.30pm on Saturday 1 June two weeks ago on a very stormy black night. A crew was assembled and went out in search of a 35 ft motor sailer that was on a delivery voyage from Picton to Thames and was only just holding at anchor beside Plate Island. They had anchored in the small bay at Plate Island to get shelter from an easterly storm but after dark the wind changed to the north east. The boat was metres from the rocks when the Coastguard Maketu crew arrived and only just managed to transfer and gather the two occupants who had wanted to abandon their boat. President Shane Beech said both were taken straight back through very difficult seas to the Coastguard base at the Kaituna Cut and transferred into an ambulance to go to Tauranga Hospital suffering from hypothermia and shock. On the following

Monday morning when the weather improved the Coastguard unit took the two crew out to the island only to find the motor sailer had likely sunk.

President Shane Beech said, "The two people on board would have perished overnight had they not been rescued. While the couple lost a lot of their livelihood with their non-insured boat they were extremely grateful to



Coastguard Maketu and EastPack Rescue for saving their lives."

Maketu Coastguard Secretary/Treasurer, Geoff Oliver, said that the emphasis is now on increasing membership and the target was to treble membership this year and each year for three years. If you are boatie, kayaker, fisherman, swimmer, jetski user, surfer, kite surfer or diver in the area from Papamoa through to Rotorua you might be interested in becoming a paid member.

For further information please call Geoff Oliver on 027-480 1743 or email him on geoff@kiwiproduce.co.nz.



Keeping Quarry Road beautiful

Congratulations to Murray Ronald (pictured at right receiving a 2nd place certificate), Trent Feder and the Forecourt Team for their commitment to keeping Quarry Road site looking smart enough to achieve award winning standards! A range of premises were evaluated during the Keep Te Puke Beautiful competition with judging based on cleanliness, tidiness and eye appeal.



EastPack website grower logins

For all our growers who were previously with Satara, EastPack is currently in the process of moving all historical data from the Satara website to the EastPack website. Once that is done all growers who have an email address will be sent out a username and password which will allow them access to the grower login area of the EastPack website.

In the first instance you will have access to your orchard's payment reports, OGR forecasting, orchard budgeting and cash flow tools as well as your grower packouts. All the other information that you used to be able to access on the Satara website will either be emailed or posted to you, as we currently do with our EastPack growers. Some of the other features might be made available in the future so we will let you know if and when that will happen.

Upcoming Events

DATE	REGION	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	VARIETIES
Mon 17 June	Edgecumbe	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Harcourt Orchard 30 Orchard Road, Awakeri Edgecumbe	9am-12pm	Hayward Gold3 Gold9
Tues 18 June	Gisborne	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Green's Orchard 799 Matawai Road Gisborne	9am-12pm	Hort16A Hayward Gold3 Green14
Tues 18 June	Katikati	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Peter Stewart 71 Wright Road Katikati	9am-12pm	Hayward Gold3 Gold9
Tues 18 June	Te Puke	Psa R&D Grower Meeting	The Orchard Church 20 MacLoughlin Drive Te Puke	3pm-5pm	
Wed 19 June	Tauranga	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day 'Organic'	KMS Organic Orchard 388 Joyce Road, Pyes Pa Tauranga	9am-12pm	Hayward Gold3 grafted 2012
Thurs 20 June	Te Puke	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Valdiva Orchard 390 Maketu Road, Maketu	9am-12pm	Hayward Gold3
Fri 21 June	Tauranga	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Puketiro Orchard 345 Joyce Road, Pyes Pa Tauranga	9am-12pm	Hayward Gold3 Gold9 Green14
Fri 21 June	Tauranga	Zespri OPC Gold3 and Gold9 Management of Winter Canopies Field Day	Puketiro Orchard 345 Joyce Road, Pyes Pa Tauranga	1pm-3pm	Gold9 mature fruiting canopy
Mon 24 June	Whangarei	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Whangarei Masonic Hall 224 Maunu Road Whangarei	9am-11am	Hayward Gold3 Gold9
Mon 24 June	Kerikeri	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	Kew Orchard 108 Inlet Road Kerikeri	2pm-4pm	Hayward Gold3 Hort16A
Tues 25 June	South Auckland	Zespri's FON Winter Field Day	381 Glenbrook Beach Road Glenbrook Auckland	9am-12pm	Hort16A Hayward Gold3 Gold9
Tues 25 June	Katikati	Zespri OPC Gold3 and Gold9 Management of Winter Canopies Field Day	Shelley Orchard 134 Beach Road Katikati	9am-11am	Gold3 2012, 2011 and 2010 grafted. Alternate row conversion
Wed 26 June	Te Puke	Zespri OPC Gold3 and Gold9 Management of Winter Canopies Field Day	Lyford Farms 13 Gridley Road Te Puke	9am-11am	Gold3 2012 and 2010 grafted

Classified

Situations Vacant

Experienced Tractor/Machinery/ Sprayer Operator

Full or part time position wanted for 14ha Hayward orchard in the Tauriko area. Prefer someone with Growsafe/Approved Handler certificate. Remuneration by negotiation.
Phone David Stephenson on 027-258 9820

Wanted to Buy

300 Steel string poles – 5m
Phone Kevin on 027-480 0506

Hort 16A or G3 licence – good price
Phone 07-573 9385 or 027-490 3446

Used AgBeam – Standard and heavy.
Phone John 027 216 9345

AgBeam

Would like enough for about 1.2ha but any amount and posted considered.
Phone Roger 027-702 6221

Hort 16A Gold licence
Phone Andrew 027 222 1903

Hort 16A Gold Licence
Phone Grant 027-493 1810

Courses

First Aid Courses

OSH, GAP, NZQA. Held monthly in Te Puke.
Phone Doug 021-108 1515
Email: dougallan@slingshot.co.nz

For Hire

Machinery for hire

- D31 bulldozer 6 way blade/winch
 - 10 tonne digger
 - 8 wheeler flat deck with hydraulic ramp and 9.5m deck
 - 5 tonne 4x4 tip truck
- Ph Barry Moys 07-929 7272

For Sale

Pneumatic Pruners

Petrol compressor on wheels with two hose reels and a couple of old pruners! These haven't been used for several years.
Please phone Faye 07-549 5944

Holder Sprayer 1000 litre

Good order. Ph Roy 07-542 3001

Cropline 20,000 litre Orchard Sprayer
\$4000 ONO
Ph Tony on 07-533 2451 or 022-075 7309

Quality Bruno Rootstock
Ph 07-312 4762

Contract grafting services

- Stump, notch, rootstock grafting
- Proven consistent track record over 15 years
- Doing your own? We offer a precision machine scion cutting service. Any scion profile cut with consistent accuracy.

Wrapped and packaged ready for you to graft.
Contact Russell Baker
Specialist Orchard Services Ltd
Ph 07-573 8879 or 021-285 5656
Email: soskiwi@farmside.co.nz

For Sale

Gum Poles

For stringing. Use multiple times. 3m and 5.4m lengths ex Tauranga \$1.10/m + GST
Phone Andrew on 027-222 1903

Roh Wind Machine

Four blades, fully automated. 160 hours.
Price Negotiable.
Ph 07-322 2566

2000x500mm Spray Guards

Suitable for stumps up to 12 years old.
Contact Tom 027-292 8529

Kiwifruit Kerf Cutter and bud wood preparation tool

- Cutters to make 4.5, 6 and 8.5mm slots.
- Fits on standard angle grinder.
- Can be fitted to bench grinder to make own bud wood scions. \$67.00 each.

Check out www.katools.co.nz
Phone 021-103 8844

Electric Motor with Grundfos pump attached

Grundfos Pump: Model 100 x 65 - 200.
Impeller diameter 198. Motor is a 2009 model 22Kw TECO high efficiency (93.5) 3 phase induction. Pump is attached to the motor.
Please ring Mike on 07-312 3198 evenings.

Mulcher

Trimax Mulchmasta, 2.2m width.
Excellent condition. \$2500
Phone Pete on 07-315 6849

Irrigation Laterals

Complete with Tornado Ray Jets, 2 x 55 litres/hr
Per 5m bay 19mm, 16mm 13mm
Call Geoff Harcourt on 027-498 0672

Trade Services Wanted

Kiwifruit posts and wire to be removed

4.5 canopy hectare lot to be removed
Contact Tere 07-573 5356

Trade Services

Rydgeview Contracting Ltd

Mulching, mowing and weed spraying
Phone Bruce 027-544 7181 or 07-573 7995
Email: bkdixon@farmside.co.nz

Wychwood Services Ltd

- Fabrication and engineering repairs
- Aluminium and stainless steel welding
- Repairs and hardfacing of flails
- Mowing and mulching

Special rates for EastPack growers.

For enquiries phone Dave on 021-980 664

Active 4 Solutions

- Taca Tungsten grit hardfacing
- Proven solution for worn mulcher flails
- Applying Taca will increase flail life by up to 4 or 5 times depending on conditions.
- We can supply all types of mulcher flails, complete with Taca.

For enquiries please phone Terry on 021-274 2814

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PrimoGrow Ltd Orchard Contracting Services

- Crop spraying
 - Weed control
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- Phone Matt 021-202 8520

Fertiliser Spreading

For all your fertiliser spreading requirements

- Main dressing
- Side dressing
- Compost and lime

Phone Paul Rouse 027-454 7839

Fertiliser Spreading and strip spraying weeds

- 50-5000kg per ha – base and side dressings
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- Use low drift nozzles for spraying
- Product supplied or use your own

Competitive rates – Book now!

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Email: semloh@eol.co.nz

SONICSPRAY Horticulture Spray Specialists

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Bay Sluicing, treat armillaria naturally

We work to isolate and control the spread of Armillaria within orchards, by water blasting soil away from infected root systems. By doing this we are able to expose the Armillaria fungus to sunlight and air causing fungus to dissipate and vines to recover.

Free quotes and consultations available throughout the bay.

Call Kevin Massey on 0800 877 566

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- Irrigation systems for orchard or farm
- Frost and irrigation, bores, rivers or dam supply
- Diesel or power pumps
- Design, supply and install
- Free quotes.
- New systems or reinstate old systems

Phone Roger Johnson on
07-533 1517 or 027-452 5330

Superior Kiwifruit Vines

Needing to graft kiwifruit vines this winter? Let us do the hard graft for you!
Over 25 years grafting experience and a success rate of over 99%.

Call Stuart on 022-080 5669

Email: Superiorkiwifruitvines@gmail.com

EP Prunings Deadline

For articles and advertising 1st of each month. Please also advise when your adverts are to be removed.

Contact Kyra Ormsby:
Phone 07-573 9309, Ext. 204
Fax 07-573 9310
kyra.ormsby@eastpack.co.nz

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027-346 8942

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Paul Manson

EKO Orchard Manager (Edgecumbe)

027-677 4502

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027-212 5608

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027-212 5739

Alan Kale

Grower Services (Hawkes Bay)

027-286 4797

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027-430 4074

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027-274 9790

Bryan Leach

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027-573 8346

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027-212 5612

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027-212 5600

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027-212 5599

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027-742 8624

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027-212 5619

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027-702 6221

Bruce Shepherd

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027-212 5630

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