

## G3 TZG ADVICES

An indicative TZG will be available from your clearance tests, however Zespri have suggested your actual TZG based on submit may not be available until July 2016 when the first taste payments are due. Aongatete will keep you informed on any updates regarding this.

## Tracey Chinnery—Grower Services

## UNCONSENTED WATER TAKES

As per our last edition, BOP Regional Council are working with Zespri and others to improve water allocations and usage. Richard and Tracey have attended meetings with representatives about requirements and frequently asked questions and are available to field your initial questions. If you are unsure about your consent, whether you have one, whether you need one, whether you are covered for your usage you are required to register with the BOP council so they can work with you to ensure your usage is correct and meets any legal allocation requirements. Due to the number of people coming forward with questions BOP Regional Council have extended the period for you to register your concerns or queries from the end of March to end of April 2016.

## Aongatete Grower Services

## RECOGNISED SEASONAL EMPLOYEES (RSE)

The RSE employees have been a very good investment for ACL over the last ten years. This year we have had 40 staff from Vanuatu over the summer—these people start heading home in April.

For this harvest/winter season, we have already recruited into New Zealand four employees from the Solomon Islands with another 24 due on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March; 44 people from Vanuatu, 11 from East Malaysia, 20 from Tonga and 10 from Nauru. Additionally Aongatete have committed to two joint “Approval To Recruit” schemes which include 20 people from Vanuatu and 18 from Samoa. The scheme means Aongatete will employ these staff for 3 months and they then move on to work 3 months in another Horticulture field. All of the RSE staff are housed locally and are looking forward to a great Kiwi experience on your Kiwifruit Orchards and in our Packhouse.

## Aongatete Recruitment Team



RSE Staff at a Packhouse Induction March 2016

## Aongatete Orchard, Technical and Grower Services Teams



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## AONGATETE NEWS



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As surely as day follows night does spray follow spray when it comes to Kiwifruit! While its always reassuring to get your crop through to harvest after a good pest management programme that's not the end of it.

It's now time to think of pre-harvest and post-harvest spray programmes, particularly given the conditions we have been having so far this season. At this time of the year there are two main sprays to be planning for:

## Clean-Up Sprays

A well planned and executed application of clean up sprays can have a significant effect on the appearance and pack out results for your crop. Water staining can

## PRE and POST HARVEST SPRAYS—Time to get thinking

be a significant contributor to pack quality and given it's a relatively simple problem to solve the return on spraying a clean-up spray is significant. At ACL we use two products: CP Clean ER (Phosphoric Acid) or Jewel (Lactic Acid). With these applied at 500ml per 100 Litres and are most effective at 3,000L/Ha at a slower ground speed. While weather conditions and timing of pick do dictate which product to use, in general we use CP Clean early in the season through Kiwistart and Jewel later in the season when the weather is more marginal and we are packing fruit for main pack.

## Copper Spray Programme Post Harvest

With Autumn being a higher risk time for Psa it's critical that you start your copper programme as soon as possible after harvest, KVH best practice recommends the application of a copper immediately post-harvest, with the goal being to protect the fruit scar from Psa entry at the primary infection stage.

From harvest onwards it is essential that a consistent Copper spray programme is maintained during leaf drop to protect leaf scars from Psa infection. Other optional sprays, such as \*Actigard should be considered on new varieties or higher risk Psa orchards. With the Zespri CPP allowing 2 applications of \*Actigard prior to leaf drop this is well worth considering and an integral part of our Psa protections programme.

With high risk periods for Psa infection being autumn and spring it is crucial to follow a planned spray programme as secondary Psa symptoms tend to manifest the following spring or summer, at which stage the Psa bacteria will already have established in the plants vascular system.

A simple programme such as the one below should be considered as a minimum. \*Note label considerations.

Timing	Product/rates	Water Rate	Notes
Pre-harvest for late maturing areas.	Nordox 70gm/100L	1000-1500L	Nordox – 7 day PHI No wetting or spreader adjuvant.
Immediately Post-harvest	Nordox 70gm/100L Spreadwet 25ml/100L Budwiser 333gm/100L *Actigard 20gm/100L	1000-1500L	Max of 4 applications of Actigard allowed per season
Every 18-21 Days	Nordox 70gm/100L Spreadwet 25ml/100L	700 -1000L	As leaf drop starts reduce water rate
Prior to pruning & immediate after blocks are completed	Nordox 70gm/100L Spreadwet 25ml/100L	700-1000L	

Derek Edwards—Horticulture Business Manager 027 543 0741



RESIDUE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST PAST THE POST (FPP) KIWISTART

Zespri brought in new rules regarding residue tests prior to harvest this year. To receive HW or GA kiwistart payments a maturity area must be eligible for at least one of the kiwistart markets.

Growers can still pick without a residue sample result, however, if the residue result causes holds from all three kiwistart markets – no kiwistart premium will be paid (in the case of HE if the residue result causes a hold from either China or Japan then no kiwistart premium will be paid) .

The idea behind this new process was to help ensure that fruit receiving kiwistart payments is eligible to be shipped quickly.

2015 VS 2016

A quick comparison between ISOWeek 12 to date for this season and last season:

Table 1: 2015 vs 2016

	2015		2016	
	Gold3	HW	Gold3	HW
Avg Brix	6.19	4.82	5.7	4.4
Avg DM %	18.22	16.9	17.01	15.78
Avg Hue	106.6	-	108.1	-
Seeds %	-	71	-	65.2

This table contains both Agfirst clearance data combined with Aongatete monitor samples and helps illustrate the current issues we are having around securing any significant kiwistart volume for both of the main varieties.

G14 is having a similar problem with dry matter and brix.

Given these results we are tracking approximately 7-10days behind last year.

Late Week 13/14 is anticipated to result in an increase of Hayward clearances while Gold 3 may see a significant volume as soon as early Week 13.

CHANGES FROM ZESPRI

Kiwistart rates have been increased to help secure early Hayward volumes in the market.

Figure 1: New Hayward Kiwistart Rates

ZESPRI® GREEN Kiwifruit									
ISO Week	Calendar Dates	18/22	25/27	30/33	36	39	42	Total Average	Prior Average
Week 12	21 Mar - 27 Mar	\$2.68	\$3.19	\$3.63	\$2.83	\$1.62	\$0.00	\$2.81	\$2.77
Week 13	28 Mar - 3 Apr	\$2.05	\$2.46	\$2.82	\$2.17	\$1.22	\$0.00	\$2.15	\$2.01
Week 14	4 Apr - 10 Apr	\$1.54	\$1.87	\$2.16	\$1.64	\$0.90	\$0.00	\$1.62	\$1.40
Week 15	11 Apr - 17 Apr	\$1.14	\$1.41	\$1.64	\$1.22	\$0.65	\$0.00	\$1.21	\$1.13
Week 16	18 Apr - 24 Apr	\$0.83	\$1.05	\$1.23	\$0.89	\$0.45	\$0.00	\$0.88	\$0.75
Week 17	25 Apr - 1 May	\$0.59	\$0.77	\$0.92	\$0.64	\$0.30	\$0.00	\$0.63	\$0.45
Week 18	2 May - 8 May	\$0.41	\$0.56	\$0.69	\$0.45	\$0.19	\$0.00	\$0.45	\$0.26

These changes have made the later weeks a more financially viable option for Maturity Areas having an average size near 33.

NIR COMES INTO IT’S OWN (Again!)

This year Zespri has allowed NIR segregation of G3 for fruit not making minimum taste requirements.

This means we are able to pack a percentage of what would have been considered reject fruit by establishing a separate NIR maturity area and clearing fruit post packing into Zespri Class 1 inventory. With the years of experience that Aongatete’s Team have of running the NIR we created extensive models for G3 fruit prior to our first packrun. This process took a couple of weeks but has enabled us to hit the ground running.

Using a combination of the models, new technology and experienced operators gives us the option to separate the higher dry matter fruit from this generally smaller size reject fruit. This separation occurs during the standard packing process without slowing down throughput. The segregated fruit is then audited to ensure that it meets Zespri’s minimum taste standard. This process has proved invaluable to our early start growers who have had partial size clearances.

Photo below is fruit that has been separated by our NIR as not meeting the standard clearance requirements that is about to be packed into Class 1 trays for NIR Clearance Protocols.



Fruit running through the NIR system for analysis and separation.—March 2016



Fruit from NIR going to export instead of waste — March 2016

AONGATE TE INVENTORY UPDATE

Harvest 2016 is upon us and it’s a big one for Aongatete. We have an increase in both Hayward and SunGold somewhere in the region of 25% , the majority of this being SunGold.

This is Aongatete’s third season with larger volumes of this variety and a picture is beginning to emerge highlighting potential longer term fruit that we can confidently keep to the end of the season.

We are looking to have a larger portion of SunGold available at Kiwistart this season, however Dry Matter readings to date suggest a later start and therefore perhaps some may fall into Mainpack.

The first charter vessel is due to leave for Japan at the end of week 12, this will be a GA vessel and Aongatete anticipate supplying 7% of the pallets in line with previous seasons.

We are also participating in a number of Zespri special programs with Israel and Thailand confirmed at the moment—this will be Aongatete’s sixth season participating in both of these programs.

The Inventory Team