

ORCHARD UPDATE

By Vernon Comley, Senior Orchard Manager

Winter Pruning

Winter Pruning is well underway with Gold pruning to be completed by late July.

Wood quality has been good considering the dry summer, and internode spacing on canes is closer than previous years, resulting in higher buds per square metre for the same cane spacing as previous seasons.

Use the Winter Bud Calculator to predict the target bud number required per square metre and per bay to achieve targeted yield on your orchard.

Useful links: <https://canopy.zespri.com/EN/industry/tools/calculators/Pages/BudCalc.aspx>

Possible Actigard® shortage this spring

Due to a global shortage of raw materials to manufacture Actigard®, Syngenta have advised that supplies may be a little short this spring. Growers who choose to use Actigard® as part of their spring programme should contact their merchant to see if they can secure supply.

Spraying

At the OPC Winter Workshops, Zespri reported that hydrogen cyanamide (HC) continues to be under pressure from community groups that are concerned about its use. As growers, we have a responsibility to ensure we use HC correctly and in a manner that doesn't impact on our community and neighbours. Remember your basic obligations when spraying HC (or any agrichemical):

- Make a spray plan – consider how you manage sensitive areas
- Notify your neighbours at least 12 hours prior to spraying
- Use spray signage to alert passer-bys that spraying is occurring and when it is safe to re-enter the orchard
- Spray in ideal weather conditions only
- HC must be applied using air induction nozzles – drift reducing adjuvants (such as Drift Stop) also reduce drift, promote faster penetration, increase rain fastness and reduces HC "burn" by removing spray drip points.

Cicada eggs / PVH eggs

Cicadas and Passion Vine Hopper (PVH) can be trouble for some growers as egg nests damage canes that could reduce canopy fill in orchards if populations are not controlled/reduced. Both cause sooty mould on fruit during summer. Targeting egg nests with bifenthrin post-harvest can be an effective long-term management approach by reducing the number of nymphs entering the soil environment and emerging. This is a long term strategy that should affect numbers of adults emerging once the nymphs have reached adulthood (about three years). A spray post pruning will also kill any PVH eggs that bifenthrin makes contact with. Remember however, bifenthrin is a contact insecticide meaning unless it makes direct contact with the egg nest it will not kill it. Removing host plants around orchard and double mulching will also have an impact on population.

The following products have shown to be effective.

- Assail® (100ml/100L) plus Engulf (100ml/100L), or;
- Venom® (100ml/100L) plus Wetcit (250ml/100L)

***Important: Don't apply copper sprays 5-7 days either side of the application of the above sprays.**

ORCHARD TIPS

- Optimal PSA protection sprays should be applied when weather conditions allow.
- Contact beekeepers to ensure that they are aware of requirements for the season well in advance. A pollination agreement is available on the Zespri website to ensure both parties agree

and sign off on the conditions of feeding hive numbers and strength of hives.

- Soil sampling should be carried out, and winter base recommendation obtained, which need to be ordered to go on post budbreak.
- Nsure tests, will no longer be used as unfortunately the company in Belgium has closed its doors. We

are communicating with the local merchant companies to keep us up to date as this was a tool used for determining when best to apply Advance Gold and Hi-cane.

- Ensure frost lights and weather stations are up and running prior to budbreak.

That's it from the orchard team for now, as we keep our winter woollies on for the beautiful cold crisp mornings!

ZESPRI OPC OUTCOMES – SUGGESTED WEEVIL MANAGEMENT

by David Logan, Plant & Food



Please note these are just suggestions rather than recommendations as Plant and Food will be carrying out more trials around the life cycle of the Weevil and other factors.

It is important to have conversations with the neighbours about management of adjacent paddocks. If growers think the adjacent paddocks will have plenty of plantain. It is recommended they:

1. Ask to spray out plantain in Sept/Oct if neighbours are going to shut paddocks up for hay production
2. Ask to mow adjacent paddocks to top plantain seed heads in Oct/Nov
3. Possibly consider spraying ZetaPy or Pyganic in the late afternoon in Oct/Nov to kill weevils on seed heads, if ok with neighbours, we don't know if this would have any effect.
4. If you have had high levels of weevils, then spraying/hand-gunning shelter trees (particularly cryptomeria) and the ground around shelter trees with Assail+Engulf may help. Weevils also occur on the vine trunks and probably the support timber so if growers do a winter spray for passion vine hopper eggs and cicadas they should make sure they get coverage of the vine trunk.

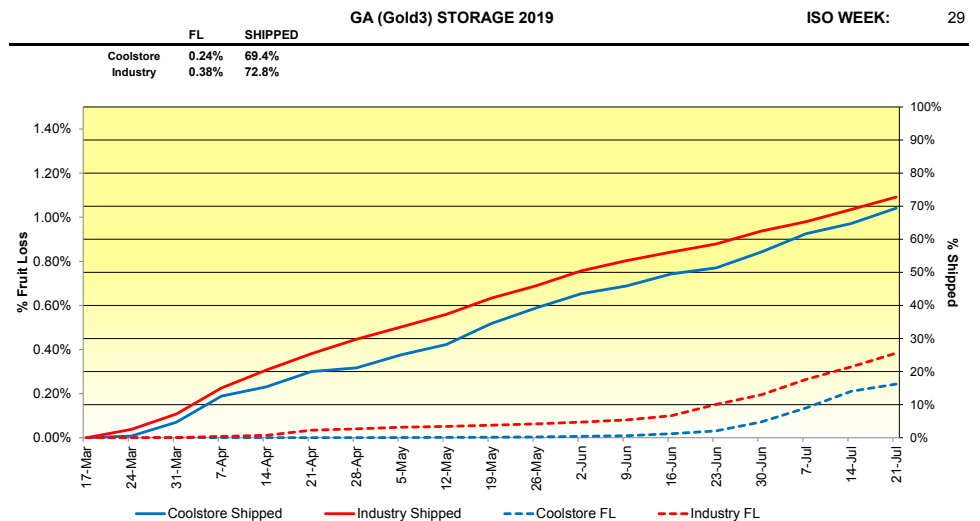


STORAGE UPDATES

By Kari Butler – Inventory Manager

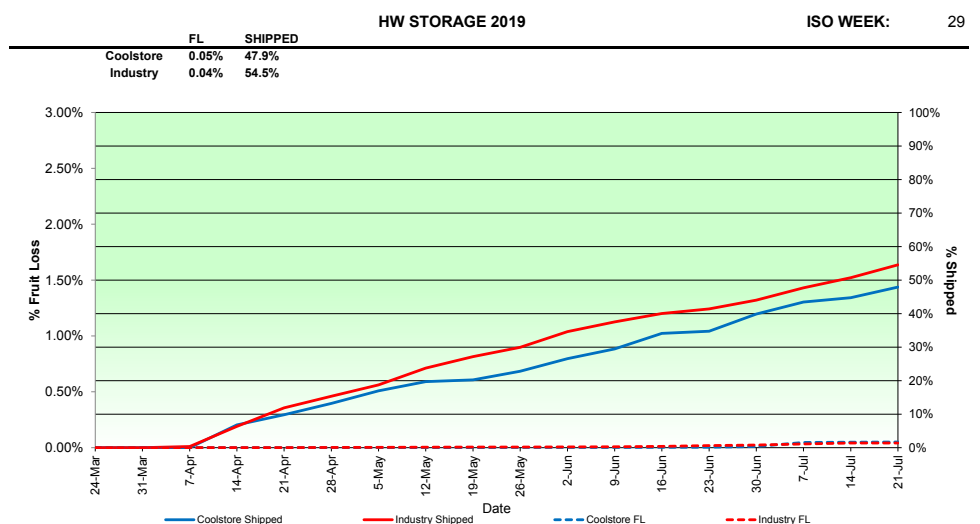
GOLD STORAGE

Storage is tracking very similar to the 2018 season. Repack has been running for the last 4-5 weeks mostly due to a few grower lines. As we move into shipping the remaining GA, which is long storage, we can see that fruit loss is starting to flat line out. Our fruit loss to date is 0.24% which is below industry at 0.38%. If this trend continues Punchbowl should finish well below industry.



GREEN STORAGE

Green is in early stages of storage, early signs are looking good.





Punchbowl HW (Green) – Week 29

Data	Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Total submitted	664,329	971,754	701,240
% gone	43.6%	44.1%	47.9%
Av. week gone	24.2	27.8	27.8
% repacked	0.08%	0.79%	9.33%
% FL of RK (week)	6.61%	1.95%	0.00%
% FL/RK	0.00%	4.03%	0.54%
% FL of submit	0.00%	0.03%	0.05%

Industry HW (Green) – Week 29

Data	Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Total submitted	65,865,310	83,468,180	69,693,454
% gone	54%	47%	55%
Av. week gone	21.5	29.0	21.1
% repacked	0.50%	0.44%	0.55%
% FL of RK (week)	8.72%	6.29%	4.34%
% FL/RK	9.27%	10.37%	7.64%
% FL of submit	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%

Punchbowl GA (Gold3) – Week 29

Data	Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Total submitted	1,408,455	1,686,198	2,086,388
% gone	75%	63%	69%
Av. week gone	22.6	22.8	20.9
% repacked	3.5%	3.8%	3.7%
% FL of RK (week)	1.51%	5.87%	4.63%
% FL/RK	5.40%	5.97%	6.55%
% FL of submit	0.19%	0.23%	0.24%

Industry GA (Gold3) – Week 29

Data	Year		
	2017	2018	2019
Total submitted	51,928,139	66,547,461	74,489,618
% gone	79%	68%	73%
Av. week gone	20.3	24.3	19.7
% repacked	4.1%	3.9%	4.9%
% FL of RK (week)	6.78%	6.91%	6.31%
% FL/RK	8.26%	6.98%	7.86%
% FL of submit	0.34%	0.27%	0.38%



WINTER BUD COUNTS

As Winter Pruning is well underway now, we thought it would be a good time to offer our services of winter bud counts. If you would be interested in having winter bud counts performed on your orchard this season by our experienced laboratory and field team, with a summary winter bud count report sent to you for your orchard afterwards, please contact our Orchard Operations Manager Heather on 021 460 835 to schedule this work and discuss details.

PUKEKOHE PATHWAY PROGRAMME

Growing a Workforce at Home

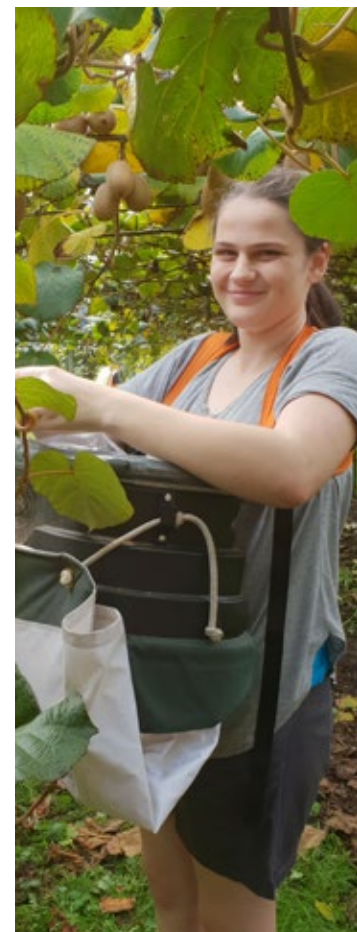
Franklin teenagers are planting the seeds of their future – right in their own backyard.

Punchbowl has been involved in a pilot programme with Pukekohe High School and a few other local growers who have been desperate for qualified staff.

Under the Horticultural Pathways initiative, the students have spent three days a term with different horticultural growers having real-work experiences in a wide range of roles. It has opened their eyes to the industry and the potential careers in their own community. Every Wednesday two students would arrive at Punchbowl and learn about growing, harvesting, packing, and meeting various personnel throughout Punchbowl.

The driving force behind the scheme was Pukekohe High's Agriculture & Horticulture Department head Dave Matthews. It had been his vision since he started at the school in 2017, and found that horticultural studies were not as strong as they could be considering, "we're right slap-bang in the middle of all these growers who can't get skilled staff".

Punchbowl, IntaAg, T & G Global, A S Wilcox and the Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association all signed up to help. They have been meeting regularly for the past 18 months while they worked through the complex issues involved in getting the initiative started. The pilot finally launched in May when six of the students began their work experience out in the field with Punchbowl and the various other growers. Punchbowl will have the second group of six students in Term 3.



PB NEW EMPLOYEES



TRAVIS BRUNNBAUER

Machine Operator /
Orchard Team Leader

Travis Brunnbauer joined Punchbowl in February and has taken on the position of Machine Operator / Orchard Team Leader. This is a new, dual role where Travis will join our Packhouse during the packing season, and then transition to the orchard post-harvest. Travis has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honours and since graduated, he has been involved in the research and development of apples in Australia. He was promoted to the Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager position where he was heavily involved in BRC, Biosecurity, Auditing and packaging chemical trials.



VANESSA WILLIAMS

Packhouse Assistant Manager

Vanessa Williams joined Punchbowl in February and had taken on the position of Mid Shift Packhouse Floor Supervisor. She has now accepted a permanent position in the business as the Packhouse Assistant Manager. Vanessa will be working closely with Justine to manage the full remit of all Packhouse-related activities.



HEATHER FEETHAM

Orchard Operations Manager

Heather Feetham, who you will all know for her positive attitude and infectious and upbeat Aussie accent, has accepted a promotion as Punchbowl's Orchard Operations Manager where she will be coordinating implementation of labour for all orchard-based work activities along with various other orchard work and trial management. Heather has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honours from Adelaide University.



TANYA MULOCK-HOUWER

Management & Project Accountant

Tanya started with Punchbowl in December as an Accountant, and has recently changed roles to Management and Project Accountant. Tanya has varied accounting experience in retail and service industries. She has been working towards completing a Bachelor of Accountancy through Massey University whilst working, and graduated in April this year. Tanya enjoys change and looks forward to being part of the growth of the company. The first project Tanya will be tackling, will be the upgrade of our current Accounting Software (Greentree).



NICOLE HEADINGTON

HR Manager

Nicole Headington started in June in the role of HR Manager. Nicole has worked in a number of industrial organisations in an HR advisory capacity and joins the team with a breadth of experience across the entire HR remit, particularly employment relations, performance management and general HR administration. Nicole is excited to be a part of a local Franklin company that has a community presence.



LINDSAY MORRISON

Accountant

Lindsay Morrison joined Punchbowl in July in the position of Accountant. Lindsay will be taking this position over from Tanya Mulock-Houwer, looking after the financial function of the Karaka Orchard and Kaituna Orchard Limited Partnerships. Lindsay is a Chartered Accountant and has an extensive background within various business working as an Auditor through to Company Accountant, most recently working for GrainHub previously A & A Welch (Tuakau Grain). In addition to this Lindsay's family previously owned a kiwifruit orchard in Te Puke.



CATHERINE JAMES

Coolstore 2IC /
Orchard Team Leader

Catherine James joined Punchbowl in March and has taken on the position of Coolstore 2IC / Orchard Team Leader. This is a new, dual role where Catherine will join our Packhouse during the packing season, and then transition to the orchard post-harvest. Catherine is a graduate of Massey University's Bachelor of Agricultural Studies, majoring in Horticulture.





UPCOMING EVENTS



INVITATION TO ESCAPE THE WINTER CHILL – GROWER DINNER

Date: Thursday 1st August 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Rise 'n Shine Café, Pukekohe



PSA RESEARCH OUTCOMES INDUSTRY UPDATE

Whilst growers have 'learned to live' with Psa, our industry still feels the impact of this disease on a daily basis.

Via the Zespri/KVH Innovation portfolio we continue to invest on industry behalf to improve the tools in the toolbox.

We would like to extend an invitation to growers, contractors, postharvest and merchants to join a session designed to profile our objectives for the future of the management of Psa, current research activities and key research outcomes from the past year.

Date: Tuesday 6 August 2019

Time: 1.00pm – 5.00pm including afternoon tea

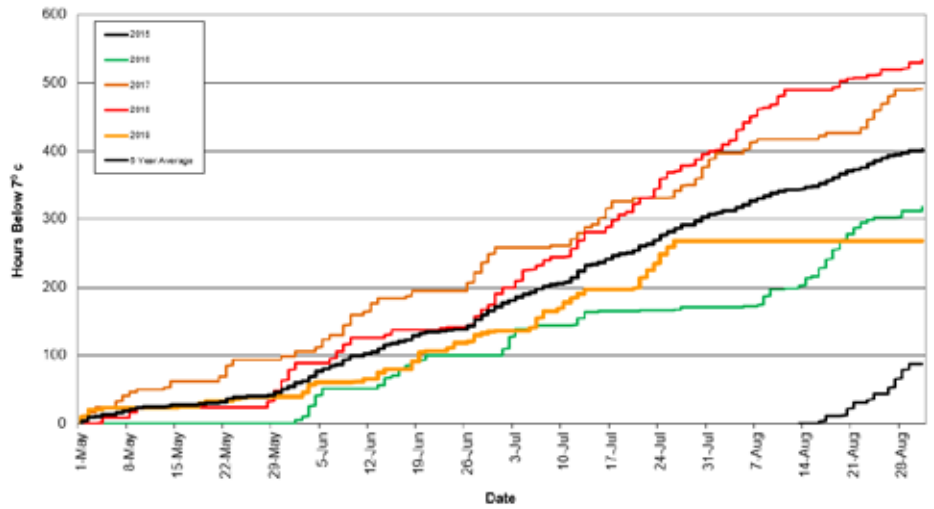
Venue: Trustpower Arena, Baypark, 81 Truman Lane, Mount Maunganui

Please register your attendance at this event at: www.zesprievents.co.nz/Psa – spaces are limited.

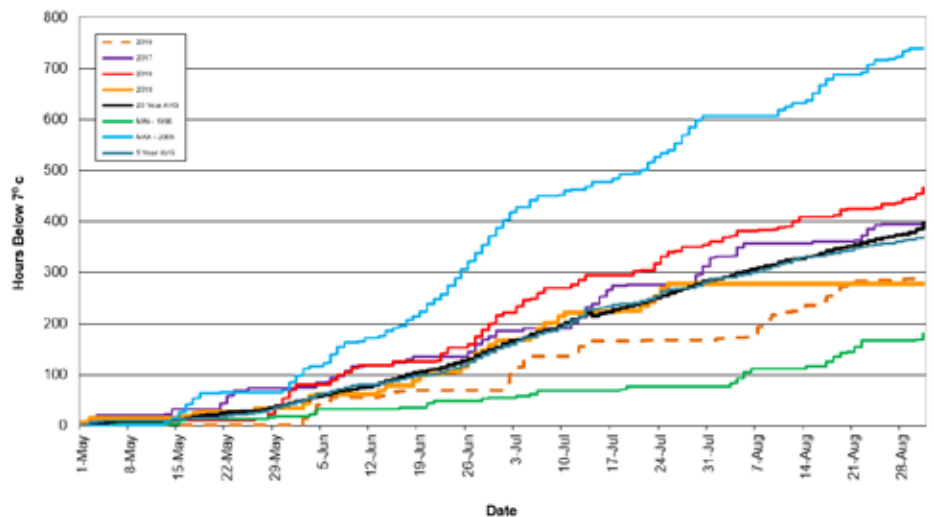


WINTER CHILLS

Whangarei Winter Chill - Hours Below 7° c



Pukekohe Winter Chill - Hours Below 7° c



ZESPRI GROWER PORTAL

Zespri Benchmarking tool

Have you checked out the grower portal yet?

<https://industryportal.zespri.com>

As well as being a one-stop shop for updating all your personal and orchard details, it now contains personalised benchmarking tools in a simple but effective format. Reviewing your orchard performance compared to everyone else is great for identifying potential areas of improvement for next season.

Some examples of the types of reports you can find on the Portal:

- Your orchard's production data by maturity area and/or KPIN
- Compare your orchard to the industry average for TZG
- Your shipped fruit, and how much remains in storage
- Your historical orchard performance for the last four years

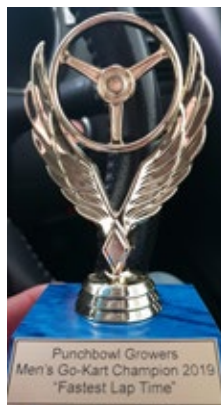
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING AWARD WINNER

Punchbowl Packaging has taken out a prestigious trans-Tasman award for Sustainable Packaging – Materials.

The Sustainable Packaging Design Award is a special category in the PIDAs and this year had the highest number of submissions, with winners awarded in two categories – Circular Economy and Materials.

Punchbowl Packaging was the Gold Winner for Materials, with the Kaituna Blueberries peel-able, re-sealable, tamper-proof top seal fibre punnets. The punnet is made from renewable unbleached wheat straw and is compostable in industrial compost systems. The punnet is also recyclable, with pulpability testing indicating a 95% fibre yield result and cleverly Kaituna have developed reuse opportunities for the punnet as seedling plant pots.



Long Standing Service – 15+ years

Sabine, Pete, Juliette and Suzie were presented with their awards for Long Standing Service to Punchbowl for over 15+ years.

Winter Pruning with Peter Ombler – 22 June

There were great discussions had under the vines at Punchbowl's home orchard with Peter Ombler followed by a lovely bbq held on the deck of the Punchbowl Packhouse. Thank you to Peter and all our growers for making the afternoon such a success.

Growers Men's Day Out – 14 June

The men enjoyed a great afternoon of exhilarating fun as they blasted around the Go-Kart track at Hampton Downs with Colin Davies coming in at 1st Place, followed by Josh Brown 2nd Place and Rob Craig 3rd Place. Thank you to all the men for your great sportsmanship!!

Growers Ladies's Day Out – 11 June

The ladies enjoy a lovely sunny day in Matakana, viewing special artwork at Janette Cervin Art Studio, and then onto Morris & James for a tour through their pottery operations followed by a lovely lunch. Thank you to all the ladies for making it such a great day!!

Surprise!! Colin Davies turned 40 in April and was nicely surprised when he arrived at work to find his desk covered in tin foil!!!