

*Issue 6: January 2021*

## **Stop sooty mould this summer**

Prevent sooty mould by ensuring PVH adults and nymphs are kept out of your orchard - a top priority at this time of year.

Both conventional and organic growers have access to pyrethrum products. Organic growers can use organic PyGanic (this seasons stock only), while conventional growers have the option of PyGanic, Pylon or ZetaPy. Pyrethrum is very sensitive to UV and can break down in 40 minutes. To get the most out of your spray apply it in the late afternoon or early morning. This is a contact insecticide and good coverage with the protection from UV is achieved with RainGard.

Pyrethrum's optimum performance is at a pH range of 5.5-7. Due to Pyrethrums degrading quickly with alkaline water sources, it is advised to test the pH of you water before filling your spray tank. For conventional growers with a water pH higher than 7 it is recommended to include Spray-Aide by Key Industries (30ml/100L) . This will acidify the water to the level that ensures the pyrethrums have enough time to be effective with fighting off PVH.

Walk the orchard prior to application to identify where they are. Target the rows where the insects are present adding a few extra rows as a buffer. Always start from the inside rows and work your way to boundaries.

### **Shelter spray options for all orchards:**

- Pyrethrum products applied in the late afternoon/ evening, as per label rates. Best applied with Key Industries RainGard as an adjuvant that also protects against UV and rainfall for conventional growers, or Ecospread for organic growers
- Organic mineral oil at 3% mixed with Oroboost at 400ml/ 100L. Best applied directly after pyrethrum applications of the canopy
- Citric acid at 15kg/ 300L, spray on shelters and skirt rows, the citric acid crystallises for which PVH and cicada dislike sitting on. This product is easily washed off so repeat after rainfall



## Water pH and spray products

**The pH level of your spray water can have a significant effect on the efficiency of your spray products.**

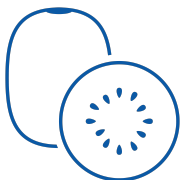
If the pH is slightly out it can quickly alter how well the product performs, or how long the product is stable diluted in the spray tank.

For example, Pyrethrums requires a pH of 6, but over 7 the product decays quickly. Most of our council water supply is provided to us from between 6.5 and 7.5, potentially causing an issue if products are not mixed and immediately applied.

If you are doing a water test this season for GlobalGAP then request a pH sample to be collected also. Alternatively, water testing strips can be used on your water source. These kits are much like the spa/ pool testing kits but it only need to show pH, in 0.5 -1 pH increments and from 4 to 10 would be ideal, and chloride, in ppm from 0 to 50. Products such as Lokit and Spay-Aide can be used to acidify the water.

For more information on certain spray products and their pH requirements check the label or contact your Client Relationship Manager.

## KiwiGreen monitoring underway – China protocol



KiwiGreen monitoring is underway with the proposed China protocol requirements. Orchards must be monitored for fruit to be eligible to be sent to China this coming harvest.

Monitoring ensures we only spray if pests are present rather than spray according to a date on the calendar. Monitoring can also give a grower a good indication on how well their spray programmes have been leading up to this point, and if they should expect anything at time of packing.

The detailed reports are a great resource, providing a row by row indication of where the pests were found. Quite often pest finds coincide with an external source for the pests such as host tree, shelter type or gap in shelter for pests to invade through. This also allows you to spray hot spots in the orchard by the row rather than the entire block, reducing insecticides while not compromising your crop.

Target pest	Pest incidence threshold
Leafroller	>0.5%. If greater than 3% re-monitor is required after spray application

	to maintain China compliance.
Scale	>4% If greater than 7% re-monitor is required after spray application to maintain China compliance.
Long-tailed Mealybug	Colonies >2%

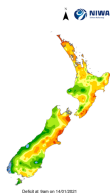
Scale can be controlled by mineral oils, applied at 1% with 2000L of water. For Hayward this can be done throughout the monitoring period once an over threshold result has been indicated as long as the drying time is reasonable. For G3, Zespri have done trials showing if the conditions are perfect with low humidity and fast drying times normally around the second and third week of February the crop can get away without causing any staining. For more information on spraying oils on G3 please visit [Zespri Canopy](#) or [view Zespri's fact sheet here](#).

If an over threshold result is found for leaf roller then there are a few products that work well at removing them. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) products are organic options that can be used by all, and Emamectin Benzoate for conventional orchards only.

There is currently no control option for long-tailed Mealybug so an over the threshold find will simply trigger a pest hold for certain markets.

Wheatbug will also be monitored this season by KiwiGreen teams with a visual assessment of loading bays and bin storage sites to ensure they are well maintained and do not contain any host plants. Key host plants include wireweed, allseed, cudweed and sandspurry.

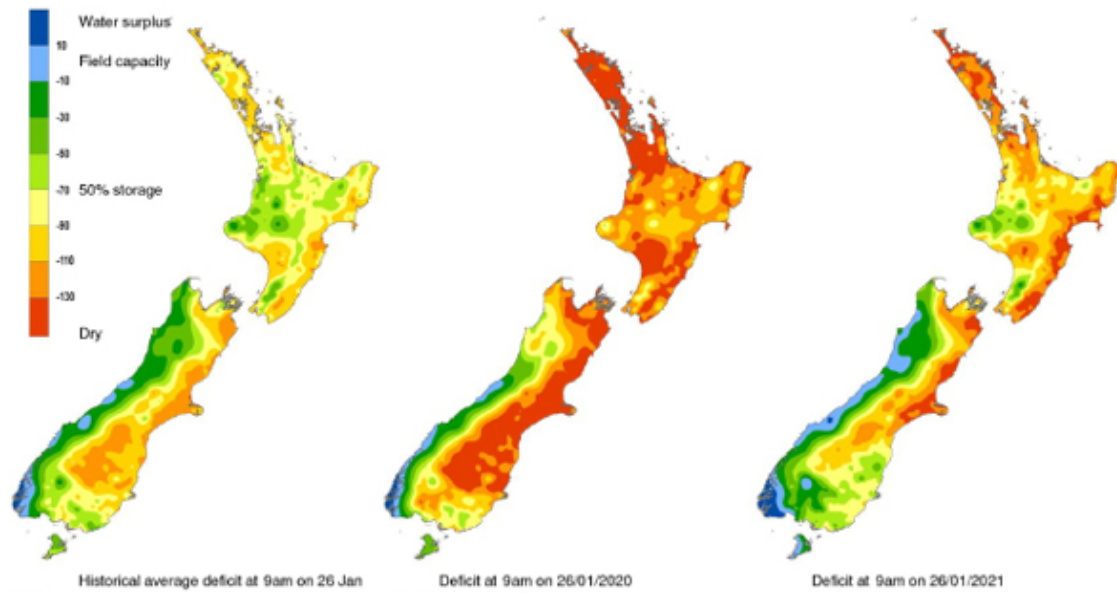
### Hot summer: NIWA and soil moisture



We are experiencing another hot summer, however compared to last summer; we have had the rainfall at crucial times for early fruit growth.

Crops are generally looking ok with fruit sizing. Below is a soil moisture infographic developed by NIWA showing a comparison to last season and the historic average. These infographics show that all our growing regions are in

better shape with soil moisture compared to same time last year.



NIWA provide a long range forecast that we constantly monitor. Rainfall has been forecast to be normal or above normal for the entire north island, with heavy rainfall/ subtropical rainstorm events expected late summer and early autumn.

With temperatures expected to be above normal coupled with these rainfall events this will result in humid conditions. This could lead to canopies showing greater vegetative growth and will create perfect conditions for fungal growth.

Keep an eye on your orchard canopy, ensuring it is not getting too dark. Fruiting canes should be in full sunlight and allow air flow to reduce fungal spores taking hold and causing an issue.

## Dry matter girdling is quickly approaching for this season

It is time to decide if a summer girdle is for you. With a girdle, you remove the outer layer of bark and phloem which interrupts the flow of carbohydrates to the roots created by the canopy.

Due to the carbohydrates being trapped in the canopy these are relocated to the fruit and shoots, allowing the fruit to accumulate more dry matter.

A summer girdle will show an increase in fruit dry matter of approximately 0.5-1.1%, as well as potentially reducing dry matter variability. Both of these factors can play a huge part in increasing the orchard gate return (OGR).



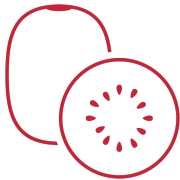
With the summer girdle it is essential to do it on a vine by vine basis. If the vines are showing any signs of stress leave them out. The number of dry matter girdles you intend to do will determine

your optimum girdle timing. Most single summer girdles should be done around early-mid February, however for a double summer girdle programme this can start from late January and will be re-opened in late February.

Only girdle in good weather conditions ensuring tools are cleaned between vines. A quick spray of copper into the wound will help protect against Psa. If done correctly the wound will be same width the entire way around, going to the correct depth and will allow the vine to callus up evenly within a couple of weeks.

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## You're invited: Zespri Red19 Grower Open Day



Join us at Seeka's grower open day to view Zespri's recently commercialised Red19 variety at 11:30am-12:30pm, Tuesday 9 February.

Zespri will share what they have learnt with us and ask to please respect the private property, keep questions to the allocated time, keep to designated areas, no photos of vines or presentation and no removal of plant material.

Registrations are essential by clicking the link below. You will receive an email with the orchard address the day before the event.

[Click here to register by Thursday 4 February](#)

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## Recent hail events – Policy exceeded

Hail storms have caused significant damage in Motueka. About 2.2 million trays of SunGold and 300,000 trays of Hayward were lost. Zespri and the insurance assessor are working closely with the affected orchards.

The pool hail insurance policy cover for SunGold has been exceeded. Zespri's hail insurance policy and other hail resources can be viewed on [Zespri's Canopy](#).

Seeka Growers Limited has a top up policy for Seeka growers. This is a \$2.00 cover for each tray of loss for Hayward conventional and organic and SunGold conventional and organic. As with Zespri's policy, a limit to the trays insured applies.

Registering a hail claim should be as soon as possible after event. Register through your Client Relationship Manager or to [Peter Weaver](#) directly.



## Work with us: Calling seasonal workers for the kiwifruit harvest

Seeka is looking for packhouse and orchard employees for the upcoming kiwifruit harvest.

Know anyone interested in working with us? Maybe someone on the hunt for a new job, to work flexible hours or has some spare time? Applications are now open at [seeka.co.nz/work](https://seeka.co.nz/work)

Jobs are available from March in Northland, Coromandel and the Bay of Plenty.

[Share our Facebook post with your network to help spread the word.](#)

We are also hosting local open days with site tours and BBQ where potential workers can come along and bring a friend. Open days kick-off in February, see the dates for the diary for your closest site.

Check out the roles available and friendly team in the recruitment video below.



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### Meet Neil Te Kani and Joe Ngatai

Seeka has welcomed Neil Te Kani, Maori Business Development Manager and Joe Ngatai, Communications Coordinator to the team.

Neil will continue to strengthen and grow our delivery of service to growers, focusing on Maori growers and business development in all regions.

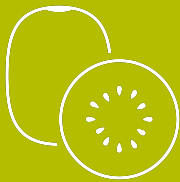
Neil was born and bred on the Matapihi Peninsula and was the previous CEO of Te

Awanui Huka Pak. His favourite activity is playing golf; enjoying the walk and conversation.

Joe has a history with Seeka. He joined the orchard cadet programme in 2015 and then in 2017 studied a Bachelor of Management Studies, double majoring in finance and management systems at the University of Waikato. Joe worked in the finance team before joining the marketing and communications team.



## Seeka Australia's kiwifruit orchards sale



In December 2020, the sale and lease back of Seeka Australia's kiwifruit orchards was approved by the Australian Foreign Investment Review Board.

The sale is unconditional and settled. The funds from the sale are being used to continue investment in the orchards and to reduce overall debt.

[Read the news release here](#)

## MPI registration – Food Act 2014

Seeka is registering all growers previously registered through Seeka for the MPI registration Food Act 2014.

Your registration will be sent to MPI early next month. If you have any questions, please contact your Client Relationship Manager.



## Seeka's delicious avocado recipes

## It's time to get creative with avocados

[Check out Seeka's new avocado recipe book](#), created for the Avocado Food and Wine Festival, using avocados to make chilled soup, grilled pineapple salsa, Jamaican jerk pork, Spanish style eggs and peanut butter chocolate cups.

The recipes were created by Shane Yardley, Toi Ohomai Chef Tutor, and were on-show at the live cooking demonstrations during the day.

The Seeka sponsored Smashed Avocado competition was announced and awarded to The Talisman Hotel and Restaurant. Head Chef, Mahesh Peters, created an outstanding avocado citrus fusion dish.



## Northland Ladies Lunch

Thanks to the ladies who joined us for our ladies lunch en blanc at the end of last year. Celebrating summer in style, cruising the Bay of Islands harbour before docking in Russell for a few hours.

It was the second ladies lunch in Northland and follows Seeka's surprise tradition.

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## Report reminder: Orchard performance report - now available

Have you seen your orchard performance report yet? The refreshed report includes an updated forecast, benchmarking this as well as factors like yield, size, and reject profile within your growing region.

The information measures your orchard's performance to make informed decisions to focus on for future seasons, as well as a data capture for your orchards historical performance.

Any questions, please contact your Client Relationship Manager.

[Access online in Seeka's grower login portal](#)

(Click on Your Reports and select Financial Reports)

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## Te Puke: No. 1 Road Closure

One lane will be closed between 31 No. 1 Road and the intersection with Te Puke Highway, from 2 February to 8 March 2021.

This means no traffic will be able to exit No.1 Road. Exit is via No. 2 road. NZTA advise it will add approximately 15-20 minutes extra travel time.

This is part of the [Waiari water supply scheme](#); the last 500m of water main will be laid on No. 1 Road in Te Puke. More information can be found [here](#).

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## Dates for the diary

- 1 February, Auckland Anniversary
- 8 February, Waitangi Day
- 9 February, Zespri Red19 grower open day
- 10 February, Seeka KKP and Seeka Transpack seasonal recruitment open day
- 12 February, Seeka Growers Council Meeting
- 12 February, Seeka Aongatete seasonal recruitment open day
- 16 February, Seeka Katikati seasonal recruitment open day
- 18 February, Seeka Huka Pak seasonal recruitment open day
- 19 February, Organic kiwifruit grower trip
- 23 February, Seeka Oakside seasonal recruitment open day
- 8 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Kerikeri (invitation coming soon)
- 9 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Mount Maunganui (invitation coming soon)
- 10 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Te Puke (invitation coming soon)
- 11 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Katikati (invitation coming soon)
- 12 March, Seeka Growers Council Meeting
- 16 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Ohope (invitation coming soon)
- 17 March, Kiwifruit growers After 5 Meeting - Coromandel (invitation coming soon)

## Quick links

- [Frankly Speaking](#)
- [Seeka Grower Login](#)

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