



How much weight can your canopy hold?

This season we have seen several canopies straining under the weight of fruit and collapsing. Once your crop is off, check if you need to strengthen your structures and book in a contractor to help resolve this.

The table below shows how much weight hanging on your canopy depends on your crop loading. As your crop increases or the bay size increases, it adds a greater strain on the structures to hold everything in place.

This season has seen abundant crop loads. However collapses are not surprising when grown on low gauge Ag-Beam, wooden pergolas, over wide rows or using smaller, old posts. The strain can be too much for the structures to hold, especially with high winds, heavy rainfall, single branches falling from shelters, or even picking fruit off one side of a row and altering the balance.

Trays / ha	Kg / ha	T / ha	Kg / bay size		
			21m ²	25m ²	30m ²
25,000	97,250	97	204	243	292
20,000	77,990	78	164	195	234
15,000	58,493	58	123	146	175
10,000	38,995	39	82	97	117

Approximate weight, assumes non-class 1 of 10%

Tips for preventing collapses

- Assess end assemblies for structural integrity and replace where needed

- Use corner braces to support the weight
 - Assess wire condition and tension where needed
 - Replace your pergola or posts with high gauge Ag-Beam or new sturdy posts
 - Reduce your bay sizes by installing additional support between current structures
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Kiwifruit technical webinar: Latest maturity monitoring data

Hayward conventional and organic

The mainpack harvest season has started well. There is good fruit size and yields, however shape is an issue. Our focus is now on long term storage.

Seeka's Research & Technical Manager, Vonda Windley, shares an update on the latest monitor and clearance results and how fruit maturity is tracking for Hayward conventional and organic crops:

[View the webinar recording](#)

[Download the presentation](#)



Winter pruning: Setting your numbers

A new season starts with winter pruning, a critical job to ensure a high quality crop.

Set your targets by working out how many trays at what preferred size and then work backwards to how many winter buds you will need per bay. Take into considerations reject rates, orchard thinning and male proportions of your orchard.

The final aspect to consider is flowers per winter bud. It is dependent on accumulation of winter

chill hours (hours under 7°C) during May and June, view the table below.

[View Zespri's tool here to help calculate winter buds and spacing.](#)

When you have your decided on bud numbers, it is important to communicate this with your team. Include any additional requests, such as removing high wood areas or crowns, or removing one old structural cane each bay to reinvigorate it.

Have a few bays pruned before your team arrives, to demonstrate how you want it to look and how to get there. Complete one bay how you want it and another partially pruned. Leave parts not tied down and a few extra canes removed and walk through showing the staff why you would want them removed. Perform counts on each pruner as they are starting.



Winter chill hours:

Region	2021	2020	2019	2018
Kerikeri	19	9	4	16
Coromandel	47	64	19	11
Katikati	70	107	59	30
Omokoroa	85	123	78	35
Tauranga	72	90	51	23
Te Puke Low Altitude	74	87	41	35
Te Puke High Altitude	71	140	73	24
Whakatane	64	95	69	46
Opotiki	62	70	44	46

Coming together of Seeka and OPAC

Over 150 people attended Seeka's official welcome to Opotiki celebrating the amalgamation with OPAC.

Local Opotiki hapū, Ngāti Ira led the pōhiri supported by hapū of Whakatōhea iwi and the iwi of Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Ngāti Porou and Ngāitai (Tōrere).

Attendees travelled from across the North Island and Eastern Bay of Plenty to enjoy the hākari and entertainment.

Michael Franks, Seeka's Chief Executive, said, "We are truly honoured to be welcomed this way. Seeka is committed to our growers, stakeholders, and to the local iwi and the community. The purchase of OPAC is consistent with our strategy and delivers the Eastern Bay of Plenty kiwifruit growing region to Seeka's operations, a region in which Seeka is already experiencing growth through new orchard developments. This is a significant milestone for the Seeka whanau and one where the Maori kiwifruit footprint will be extended from Te Tai Tokerau through to Te Moana a Toi and further East to Turanganui a Kiwa."



Recognising poor root health after harvest

After harvest take a walk to identify which vines were struggling due to possible root diseases. Most of their leaves will have dropped, plenty of small fruit will still be hanging on half-shriveled and generally next season's cane and quality does not look good.

The two most common root diseases that affect kiwifruit are Armillaria and Phytophthora. Both can be challenging to get on top of. Take note of where these vines are, what conditions they are growing in and place an order for a replacement vine or make it identifiable for future control actions.

Armillaria is a root fungus, spreading through dead or weakened root material and infects neighbouring vines. It is often found in blocks that have or had willows within their shelters.

Other symptoms:

- Bark starting to crack off the trunk just above ground level
- Mat of white fungal growth will be covering the woody material
- Woody material feels mushy

- Musky smell

Control options:

- Remove dead infected vines, and any host shelter species (willow)
- Sluice around the root-crown
- Application of Terracin 20L/ ha in August to suppress fungal populations

Phytophthora is a water borne fungus, attacking vines sitting in poorly drained areas or after heavy rainfall that surface ponding sat for several days.

Other symptoms:

- Orange mottled lesion, only present once infection is advanced

Control options:

- Install better drainage around block
- Use gypsum to help improve the soil structure
- Maintain a healthy sward with some deep rooting species to build up soil structure, reduce compaction and feed microbiology that will improve your soil



Providing a safer, more efficient kiwifruit harvest

Ngai Tukairangi Trust trialled a new auto bin trailer this harvest - the LandMax BT3600.

The innovative three-bin trailers go in front of tractors for better manoeuvrability, safety and efficiency.

The mechanics alter the height from flat on the ground to 800mm high and angles change at any height, ensuring a smooth ride for kiwifruit. The hydraulic motor and forklift chain transport the bins up and down the trailer.

Watch it in action below.



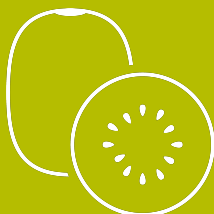
NIWA long range forecast

The seasonal climate outlook from May to July 2021

- Temperatures are equally as likely to be near normal or slightly above, meaning our winter chill for the season may be down on previous years
- Rainfall is looking to be near normal for most of our growing regions while below normal for our Gisborne and Hawkes Bay growers
- Soil moisture, with normal levels of rainfall during the next three months for most of our regions we can expect this to recharge our aquifers, rivers, and soil moisture level

Watch: NIWA's full weather report

Zespri's license results



Zespri's license results have been announced for 2021.

Up for bidding was 700 hectares of SunGold kiwifruit, 50 hectares of SunGold organic kiwifruit and 350 hectares of red kiwifruit.

The numbers per hectare:

- SunGold median price \$550,000 with 187 successful bidders. 37% increase from 2020
- SunGold organic median price \$305,000 with 14 successful bidders. 38% increase from 2020
- Red median price \$74,979 with 127 successful bidders. 19% increase from 2020

Spotlight on: Gold organic

Seeka's SunGold organic harvest packed 425,000 trays from 17 growers across 50 hectares.

The highest production was from an altitude orchard reaching 18,854 trays per hectare. A number of other orchards were close by at 17,000.

Jon Merrick, Organic Category Manager, says the overall the gold organic harvest went well. The weather was kind, they had their fair share of early start orchards and most of mainpack fruit was picked and packed at optimum maturity.

Pictured: Organic orchard, Otama Marere in Te Puke



Seeka at the Foodstuffs expo

Seeka had a terrific couple of days last week at the Foodstuffs New Zealand expo in Hamilton. The team was representing our fresh produce and Kiwi Crush at the supplier event. The Seeka stall, one of 300 exhibitors, showcased our products to retailers including New World, Pak'nSave and Four Square.

The Foodstuffs Expo is New Zealand's largest Retail Food Show held every two years. It is home to hundreds of suppliers showcasing everything from the latest supermarket equipment through to delicious deli delicacies, innovative packaging and sustainable products.

As New Zealand's largest supermarket company, the Foodstuffs team says it is committed to doing their very best to make sure they are ahead of the trends; delivering what customers need and want.

Pictured L-R: Melanie Park, Account Manager, Kiwi Crush; Verena Cunningham, GM SeekaFresh & Strategy; Steph Cavell, Export Programme Manager; Ken Kaliatama, Key Accounts Development Manager and Aaron Leslie, Sales & Business Development Manager.

Packhouse Profile: Steven Grant



Meet Steven Grant, also known as Dixie, Line Manager at Seeka Kerikeri.

His kiwifruit journey started 19 years ago as a box maker and he has never looked back. His goals are to be company driven, rather than personal. He wants to see Seeka Kerikeri emulate that of the Bay of Plenty sites.

He says it is essential to understand what is important to people and encouraging them to do what is needed to be done. It is about keeping the balance of people being happy and keeping the line running.

First run of Lemonade Crushies

The team at Delicious Nutritious Food Company produced its first round of Classic Lemonade Kiwi Crushies. The first batch of 7,300 cones was packed into bulk supplier boxes with 50 individual cones.

The lemon juice to make the product comes from Seeka Kerikeri. The lemons are sent to Hawkes Bay where they are processed into juice and then sent back to us.

This first run will be in the community and North Island schools, with plans in place to get into the retail market this summer.



Dates for the diary

- Monday 7 June, Queen's Birthday
 - Monday 14 June, Seeka Growers Council meeting
 - Tuesday 15 June, Kiwifruit soil health workshop - Gisborne (invitation coming soon)
 - Wednesday 16 June, Kiwifruit soil health workshop - Te Kaha (invitation coming soon)
 - Thursday 17 June, Kiwifruit soil health workshop - Opotiki (invitation coming soon)
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Quick links

- [Kiwifruit technical webinar recording - Hayward conventional and organic](#)
- [Frankly Speaking](#)
- [Seeka Grower Login](#)

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