

CHINA SHIPPING

Due to recent importation restrictions imposed by the Chinese government, all of our remaining fruit volumes destined for the Chinese market will face some big challenges going forward. Chinese authorities intercepted a shipment of Zespri Kiwifruit containing the fungus *Neofabraea actinidiae* otherwise known as *cryptosporiosis* which is a quarantine risk for China's own kiwifruit industry.

Neofabraea actinidiae is a fungus which causes fruit to deteriorate, but poses no food safety risks.

Zespri have been working with MPI over the last several weeks to put strict procedures in place that would allow China exports to continue, with a near zero tolerance of any rots within containers to China.

Currently, if a single rot is found within a 1000 fruit sample from a pallet, the pallet will fail inspection and not be cleared for export. If 2 rots are found within a pallet, the whole container shipment is failed and will not be cleared for export.

This obviously puts a lot of pressure on our Repack, Shipping and Quality Control team, and will certainly mean additional repacking on pallets that usually would be cleared for export.

There is no word yet as to when these restrictions might loosen, with the first ships since the new restrictions still on the water, but with such a significant market at stake (for both volumes and returns) it is vital that we retain our China export programme for following seasons.

Zespri are asking packhouses to record all rots in an effort to establish lines that are high risk *Neofabraea* in contrast to opportunist rots that may have developed from other physical damage to the surface of the fruit. In this way it may be possible to establish fewer lines that require repacking.

Nathan Johnson—Fruit Quality Manager

ZESPRI CROP PROTECTION STANDARD

The Zespri Crop Protection Standard (CPS) along with the Allowed Other Compounds (AOC) list has just been updated and released for the 2016/2017 season. It is important to be vigilant when using these standards as products and rates on these lists change regularly. We recommend checking for any updates to the CPS and/or AOC as often as possible. The most up-to-date copies are available on the Canopy for viewing.

This season Keystrepto has been removed from the CPS, however, in extenuating circumstances JA's will be available. Kasumin will be the only bactericide tool available in the CPP for PSA control which is to be applied no later than 21 days prior to flowering. Please remember to follow best practice guides when using bactericides.

Another change in the CPS is the application rates of copper in the *post harvest* and *dormancy* periods. Rates are now 55-70g/100L in these periods. The rate remains the same at 37.5g/100L in all other periods.

Please remember to follow safe spraying practices and consider your neighbours as we go into our busier spraying period.

Andrew McConnell—Horticulture Technical Support

BIRD DAMAGE

Birds can cause a lot of damage to orchards in a very short period of time, and every year we hear of different cases, some are majorly affected while others just a little. They target early developing buds and flower buds so it is important to limit their presence in the orchard during this time of the year.

Growers have a few tools that could help them protect their orchards which include:

- The use of Mesurol which is sprayed onto the canopy and makes the growth unpalatable to birds. Unfortunately this spray is not rainfast and needs to be reapplied after significant rain events. With the use of Mesurol please remove any flowers open within the sprayed area and from the sward, and use of AI nozzles is required. Note please refer to the Zespri Crop Protection Standard policies for the use of any chemical.
- Other methods include the use of a combination of different repellents including:
 - ◆ Sound repellents – a system that broadcasts recorded bird distress calls, etc that frighten pest birds
 - ◆ Predator Kites – lifelike kites that keep birds away
 - ◆ Visual Scareers – balloons and reflective ribbons designed to scare birds
 - ◆ Gas Guns and other guns – Bangers that can be set to fire at different intervals and can be set on a timer.
 - ◆ Fog repellent and foggers – spreads a fogging agent onto orchards affecting birds' nervous system so they choose to stay away.

In previous years Avex has been available for use but due to too many residues found on the fruit Zespri has removed it from their CPS. Please contact our Grower Services or Technical Team who will have all the information you need.

SCALE

Now is the time to start planning how to prevent scale populations having a detrimental effect on your crop. Scale can be a big problem, excluding entire grower lines from several profitable markets including Japan and Korea. Therefore it's in everyone's best interests to maintain an effective scale control program to ensure this is not the limiting factor in the determination of your OGR, as well as reducing control costs over the pest monitoring period.

An effective spray program pre-flower can reduce the populations of scale before they start multiplying in the coming summer months. Sprays such as Calypso should be applied 2-3 days after 100% budburst, targeting the leader zone and shelter belts. If a severe scale problem occurred last season a second application using Movento (which is highly effective) that will kill off scale overwintering in the deep crevasses and joints of the kiwifruit bark (ensure the rate is 960mls /ha and that it is 10 days prior to 'bees in'). Check with the Zespri Crop Protection Standard if you are unsure about allowed products and application rates.

Another trick is to remove large crowns in the leaders of your vines as these create areas for the scale to hide without risk of spray chemicals getting to them. Also shelter trees such as willows, poplars and Pittosporums can harbour scale over winter months. If you are unsure how your orchard's scale levels were looking this season, don't hesitate to get in touch with us here at Aongatete and we can provide that information for you.

Ethan England—Hort Technical Team Leader
