

**NATIONAL YOUNG GROWER OF THE YEAR**

Andrew Hutchinson was crowned national Young Grower of the year at an awards dinner in Pukekohe on Wednesday 20th July. Runner up was Chris Clement who won the Bay of Plenty title last month in a close contest with Aaron Hokopaura who came second. Of special interest to us all at “Aongatete” is that all three started their horticultural careers at Aongatete Coolstores as part of it’s young graduate recruitment programme with Massey University.

We have recently taken the opportunity to congratulate Andrew who left Aongatete to join his partner in Auckland.

We are also very proud to have Aaron in our Grower Services Team and who is developing incredible leadership skills.

**Allan Dawson**

**EVENTS COMING UP...Timings yet to be advised**

<b>Tuesday 30 August</b>	<b>NZKGI Forum Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday 31 August</b>	<b>KVH AGM</b>
<b>Wednesday 31 August</b>	<b>NZKGI AGM—Held at ASB Baypark Stadium</b>

**Aongatete Orchard and Grower Services Teams**



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# AONGATETE NEWS



**THIS ISSUE:**

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- ☀️ GOLD NIR SEGREGATION
- ☀️ REVIEW OF SEASON
- ☀️ ZESPRI ROADSHOWS
- ☀️ ZESPRI GAP—GRASP
- ☀️ FERTILISER PROGRAMS
- ☀️ Psa-V Monitoring
- ☀️ HI-CANE, & HI-CANE TRIALS
- ☀️ SPRAY DIARIES 2016-2017 / SEESPRAY
- ☀️ NATIONAL YOUNG GROWER & EVENTS COMING UP

**UPDATE FROM PACKHOUSE and COOLSTORE**

Our bin store packing has commenced and we are very pleased so far with the quality of the fruit. Having the later fruit to pack really helps us to meet our orders where different packaging is required and also for our programme into Thailand. Thailand orders can only be sent up to twelve weeks after packing. The bin stores therefore allows an extension to that special market.

We are doing an in depth review of our NIR (Near Infra-Red) findings against maturity clearances currently for both green and gold fruit to get a comparison. I will include our findings in the next newsletter. We are certainly very happy with the consistency we are getting with our new NIR heads. NIR is now proven for future use as a reliable segregation tool. We believe that widespread adoption of NIR technology could improve the consistency of our ‘taste’ offering to the world markets as well as providing a fairer basis for Grower taste payments.

Included below is an article from Nathan regarding the retrieval from Sungold (GA) NIR graded fruit.

Our programmes to Israel and Thailand have increased by volume this year which is good news for our Growers that qualify. We are also going to do an SLA with Sungold into MEOIA (Middle East and Asian areas) which will also earn a bonus.

In late October we will be taking part in an SLA for long store Sungold orders. A high percentage of the Sungold has already been shipped.

The fruit quality is tracking well this year.

**Nell Dawson—Operations Manager**

**BRUNO ROOSTOCK FOR SALE**

**For those who may be interested...**

Aongatete have limited numbers of Bruno Rootstock (potted grade) for sale at \$7.50 plus GST each.

To place your order please contact Derek Edwards in the Horticulture Department on: 027 543 0741.

**GOLD NIR SEGREGATION**

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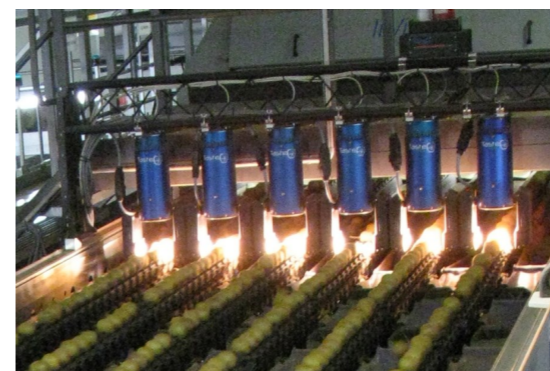
This growing season has proved to be challenging for many Growers, coupled with Zespri’s increased minimum taste standard a large proportion of crops that came across the packing line didn’t meet the dry matter threshold for at least one size bracket.

Luckily Aongatete was well placed with our extensive past experience with NIR allowing us to recover a large volume of trays which otherwise would have been reject fruit.

Over the season we managed to recover close to 30,000 trays of Gold that otherwise would have been rejected and cost the Grower for picking and transport costs. Individual recovery rates could vary greatly from Grower to Grower from 84% recovery to just under 10% with an average recovery rate of nearly 50% across all recovered sizes.

We will now be spending significant time comparing each of our maturity areas with that of their corresponding Ag-First sample to see how these two compare and hopefully aim to improve maturity accuracy across the industry, to the benefit of all Growers.

**Nathan Johnson—Fruit Quality Analyst**



## REVIEW OF SEASON

After what seemed to be a season that would never end - we are now into reviewing how everything went. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

We started off slow this year – low sunlight hours in the Bay of Plenty lead to some fairly concerning dry matter percentages early on. There was a point in time when we thought some orchards may not have reached the new minimum taste standards set in place for both G3 and HW for 2016.

The warmer autumn temperatures meant that plants did not begin to shut down and enter the ‘maturation phase’ – this lead to a slow but steady increase in brix and dry matter and (thankfully) every orchard made the new MTS – albeit some only scraping through!

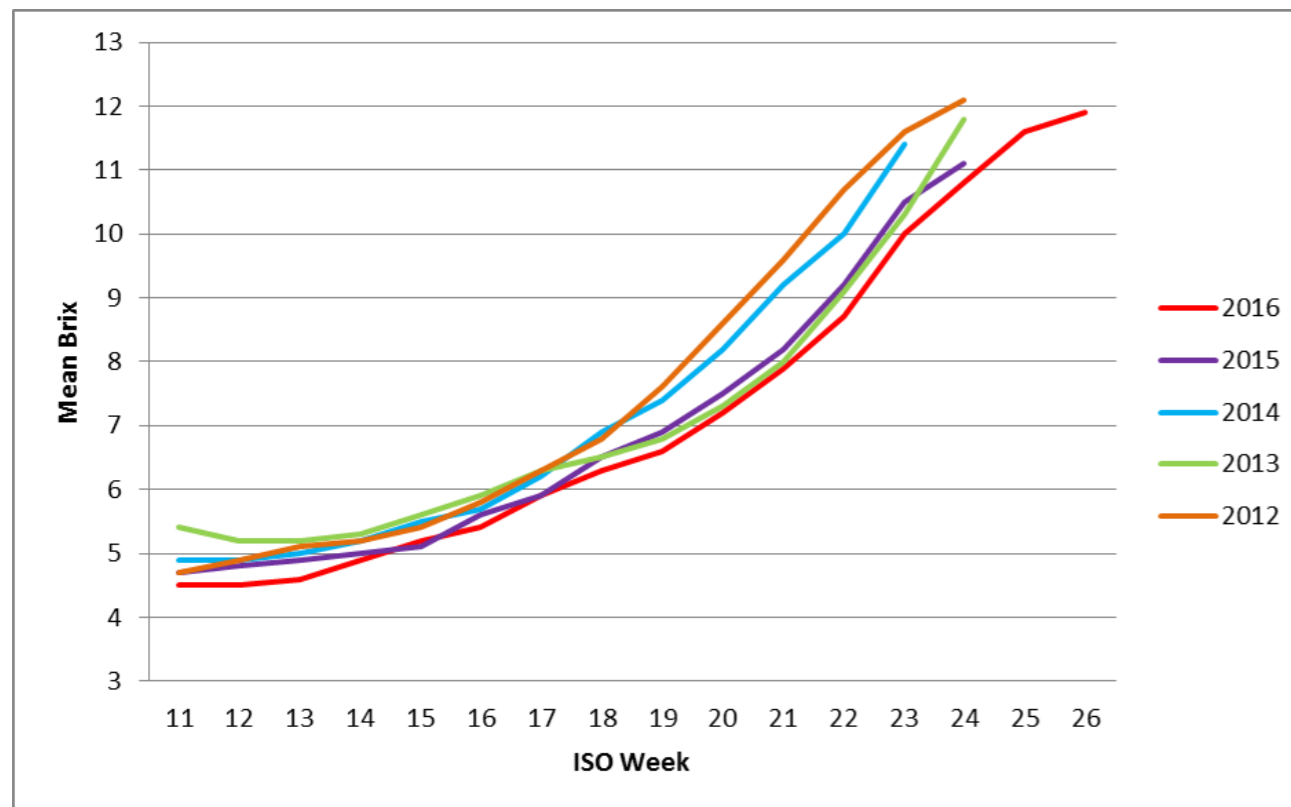
The slow brix development in Hayward is illustrated below in Table 1 and Figure 1 using industry wide clearance sample results.

**Table 1: Mean Hayward brix by ISO week.**

Hayward brix by Iso Week																
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>2016</b>	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.2	7.9	8.7	10	10.8	11.6	11.9
<b>2015</b>	4.7	4.8	4.9	5	5.1	5.6	5.9	6.5	6.9	7.5	8.2	9.2	10.5	11.1	-	-
<b>2014</b>	4.9	4.9	5	5.2	5.5	5.7	6.2	6.9	7.4	8.2	9.2	10	11.4	-	-	-
<b>2013</b>	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.9	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.3	8	9.1	10.3	11.8	-	-
<b>2012</b>	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.8	6.3	6.8	7.6	8.6	9.6	10.7	11.6	12.1	-	-

When you look at the way brix has developed throughout the 2016 in comparison to previous years there are a number of differences.

- 2016 Avg brix had a lower starting point
- Accumulation is much slower than previous years
- The end point (last clearance sample) is 2-3 weeks later



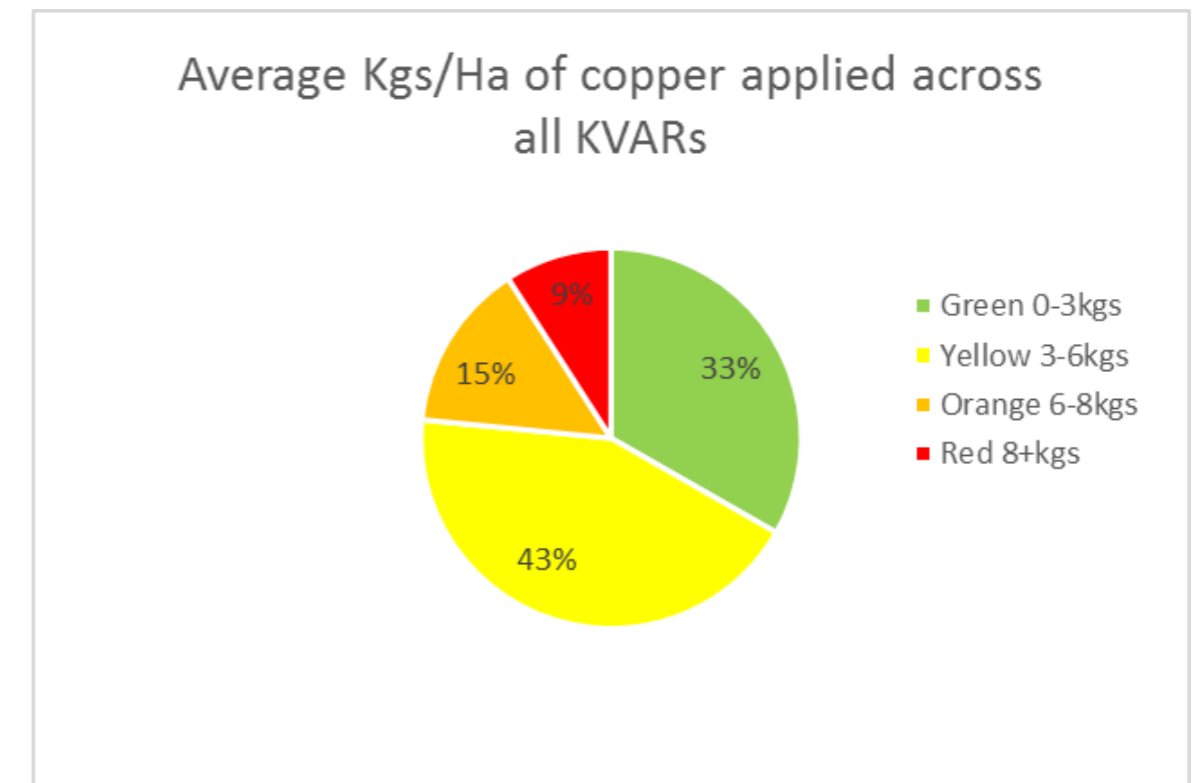
**Figure 1: Mean Hayward brix by ISO week**

## SPRAY DIARIES 2016-2017

To any growers who have questions regarding the Zespri spray diary system or would like some help with uploading their sprays into the system please let me know so I can assist you. I am more than happy to help out with uploading sprays and this season we have implemented a spray template which we use here at Aongatete and are encouraging our Growers to also use. We can either post a booklet out to you or email you a copy – let me know which you would prefer.

With Global G.A.P compliance becoming more stringent and certain sprays facing scrutiny from industry and the public as well as market access overseas tightening up, it is in our best interests to be compliant and manage all things spray related with great care.

On another note, below is a pie graph showing the average kilograms of copper applied per/Ha for the 2015-2016 season across Aongatete's KPINS. The majority are sitting between 3-6kgs/Ha but a large percentage are sitting between 0-3kgs/Ha. With Psa being a constant threat don't become complacent and remember to focus on spraying copper at regular intervals to provide ongoing protection against Psa.



**Andrew McConnell—Hort Technical**

## SEESPRAY.CO.NZ

With the mention of spraying in several articles, just a timely reminder to everyone that Aongatete works with Seespray, a spray notification company, to ensure correct and appropriate notification of intended and scheduled spraying on our orchards. If you have any new neighbours that have moved into the area, or alternatively know of people who have moved out, please contact us with their details so we can make the necessary updates.

Aongatete have Seespray neighbour cards which provide information on how people can register their details for spray notification—please let Madeleine in Grower Services know if you would like any of these to distribute in your neighbourhood.

**Aongatete Grower Services—07 552 0916**