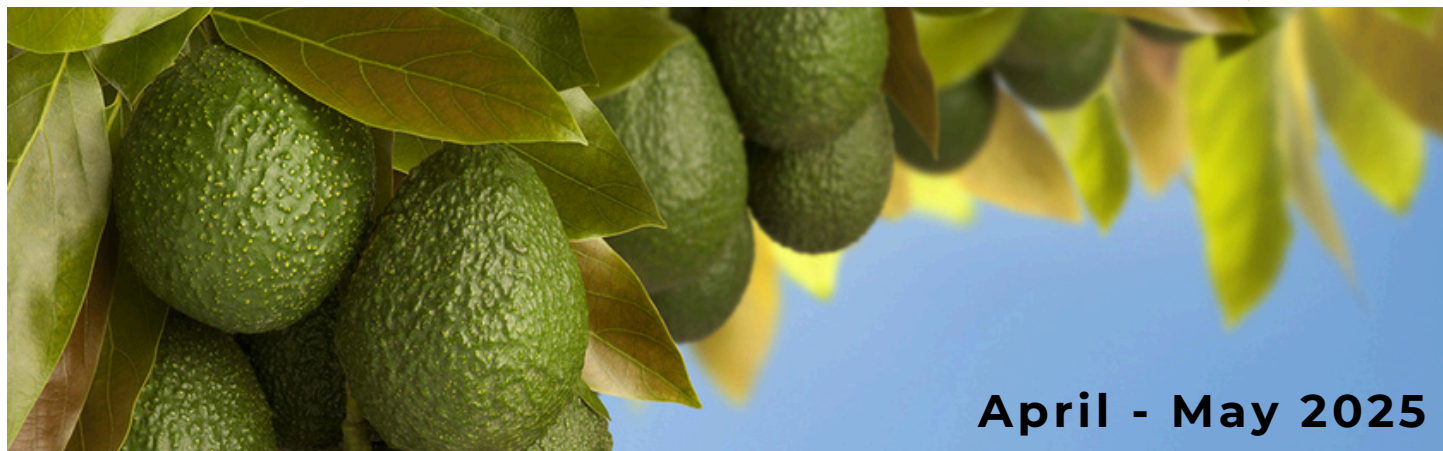


Avocado Newsletter



April - May 2025

Harvest and Packing Production

The season that keeps on giving

May is getting closer, as is the end of the 24/25 avocado season. The DMS late Local Market harvest has 300 odd bins left to complete the season. All going well, final bins will be picked and packed by mid-May. DMS has packed 1,510 Local Market bins since the completion of export harvest and 14,693 bins for the season.



April - May Activities

- **AvoGreen pest monitoring**
- **Pest spray applications**
- **Fertiliser application**
- **Harvest**
- **Crop estimates**
- **Pruning**
- **Photophora control (Tree injections)**
- **Soil testing**

There have been more late Local Market avocados than estimated. I would like to thank all growers for their patience as we work through weekly harvest quotas set by our marketing team. Steady volumes on a weekly basis in that market help ensure positive returns, this year around that magical \$20 mark.

Starting early Local Market harvests in June we are very close to a rounded 12 months of harvest!!! With June just around the corner, DMS and AVOCO are well into the planning phase for 25/26 export season.

DMS AVOCADO TEAM

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WILLIE HERDER 027 667 3849
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TONI MORRISON 027 265 4469
IVONA KOPECKA 027 266 4901
WARRENN SARGENT 027 900 0292

The AVOCO packer meeting has taken place and there are some exciting prospects ahead. I strongly encourage all growers to attend the road show in Omokoroa on the 7th of May. AVOCO will round up 24/25 season and discuss harvest plans focusing on starting earlier with higher harvest volumes through August, September and October (pre-flowering).



The DMS crop estimate for the 25/26 export season has upside since we started estimating bin numbers back in February. With just over 9,500 bins estimated for the 25/26 season we are down on last season by 25%. In saying that, we know the nature of avocados and estimating crop is a challenge, yet it's the answer everyone wants to know. The Avo team will continue to walk orchards and refine bin numbers as fruit gets bigger and we get closer to the start of export season.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 7th of May at the AVOCO meeting.

Hamish McKain



IMPORTANT Industry Notes

New Global GAP Version (6) - Effective from 1st March 2025

GlobalGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) is an internationally recognised certification program that sets standards for responsible farming, aquaculture, and floriculture practices. Its goal is to ensure that agricultural products are produced with a focus on food safety, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility.

Our team is making excellent progress working through the new version of the Global GAP auditing process. It's great to see that everyone is adapting well to the changes and that the growers and auditors are working together to navigate these updates, especially with the challenges that come with a new version of some of the regulations.

Well done to the growers and our auditors, who went through the audit in the last few weeks already - being well prepared with all the paperwork and managing the easy pass.

Huge congratulations to Harry Bragg (Grower) and Tamara Coory (DMS Auditor) for being the first to complete the electronic version of the audit—that was an impressive achievement!

AVOCO has been proactive in the last two months, sending out emails with updates and keeping everyone informed, which is key to ensuring a smooth transition to the new Global GAP version 6.

Don't forget:

You will need to organise either the electronic version or a hard copy of the updated manual

(Please see the attached information for more details).

Please ensure you have the updated manual ready when needed to avoid any issues with your GAP Audit and certification. Feel free to reach out if you need assistance or have any questions about these changes.

(Document with detailed information attached to this email)





A friendly reminder that DMS is a part of the ONSIDE scheme. DMS has been actively using the app since 2020. Once a grower signs up with DMS, their orchard info is automatically loaded into the Onside app for traceability, property access, and activity tracking. This app helps streamline operations by keeping everything centralised and easier to manage, especially when it comes to tracking and communicating with those involved in the orchard operations.

Over 4,500 farmers, growers, and contractors use Onside as a part of their daily operations. Onside was created to solve a real and practical problem on the farms, where managing large numbers of people coming and going daily can be difficult. Having a simple, digital solution that tracks who's on the farm, what they're doing, and how to contact them streamlines operations and enhances safety. It's great that the app was designed with both the farm team and contractors in mind, making it inclusive and easy to use for everyone involved. With digital tools becoming more important in agriculture, having a platform that helps people stay informed, safe, and organised is invaluable.

See how Onside works



1. Digitally check-in

See how visitors can easily check-in, and review risks and rules



2. Report an incident

Interact with the map and add incidents, risks, and tasks



3. See who's on site

See a live visitor list, and share safety information in the app

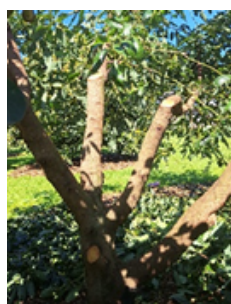
Here's what has happened ...

DMS Avocado Field Day February 2025

Follow-Up Session on Pruning Field Day from August 2024
Once again, we have been joined by pruning expert Edward Perie, who guided us through a review of the progress made since our last session and demonstrated further pruning techniques, showcasing the basic principles of pruning avocado trees, focusing on the management of the regrowth after the structural pruning.

It was a great session with many questions, sharing experiences, and deepening our understanding of effective pruning practices.

We were also hosting Karima Miri - an engineer in charge of the fruit and citrus value chains at the Direction of Agriculture of French Polynesia. Edward Perie is working closely with her at Tahiti to provide advice and training on pruning avocado and the management of their tree nurseries.



Plateau Compost visit



100% Organic Compost

Made from local green waste



Blend of Vermicast and Organic Compost

A mix of Ecocast Vermicast and the 100% Organic Compost



100% Vermicast

Pure Ecocast Vermicast



Over the last few months, our team has worked closely with the Fertco fertilising company on the fertiliser project. We are excited to work closely, building a strong relationship with this industry fertiliser supplier - which we believe is crucial for the years to come, especially as the industry continues to evolve and face challenges like changing environmental standards, improving soil health, and the need for more sustainable practices.

As a part of this project, we have been invited to visit the Plateau Compost facility in Kawerau. It offered insight into sustainable practices, waste management, and how raw materials are processed. It was inspiring to see first-hand how innovative companies tackle environmental challenges.

Compost is most well-known for its contribution to healthy and resilient plant growth. It has a number of complementary benefits to plant growth, among them that it balances soil density, adds and retains nutrients, and discourages disease, pests, and weeds.

100% Organic compost, Ecocast Vermicast and blend of Vermicast and Organic compost is available at Plateau Compost (Visit the websites for more information).

<https://www.plateaucompost.co.nz>

<https://www.fertco.co.nz>

Pest Monitoring Update

from Warren Sargent (Pest Monitoring Manager)

Hello everyone,

Thrips are still on the radar at the moment with numbers climbing quite high in certain areas especially if a back to back spray hasn't been applied.

I am also finding the last lot of small leafroller caterpillars of the touching fruit.

I am expecting the six spotted mite numbers to begin to increase from now on. Where fruit is in good condition and thrips numbers are low and not too threatening, holding off on the thrips spray until you need to act on a six-spotted mite could work well - assuming you're keeping a close eye on thresholds. That way you're hitting both pests in one well-timed application.

As always, please contact me on 027 9000 292 if you have any queries or are requiring a monitor for any reason.





Plant health, Soil & Sustainability

from Kasia Frelikow (DMS Technical & Sustainability Specialist).

Understanding the nutritional needs of trees at various growth stages is essential for maintaining a healthy orchard. Using the right fertilisers at the right time can enhance tree health, boost yields, and minimise wastage.

Nutrients in focus: Magnesium

Magnesium (Mg) plays a crucial role in photosynthesis, which is the process by which plants convert light energy into chemical energy. Magnesium is the central atom in the chlorophyll molecule, the green pigment that absorbs light and is key to this process. Without magnesium, plants wouldn't be able to capture light energy efficiently, which would severely impact their ability to produce food and oxygen.

Surprisingly, Magnesium is often overlooked in soil recommendations, considering its central role in plant health. Not only does it facilitate photosynthesis, but it also contributes to other important functions, like enzyme activation, protein synthesis, and maintaining cell structure. But the importance of magnesium goes further than fuelling photosynthesis. This is an essential nutrient that is responsible for a wide array of fundamental physiological and biochemical processes in plants.

Magnesium deficiency has a double impact on the plant: firstly, photosynthetic activity is reduced because of chlorophyll degradation, and secondly, carbohydrates produced cannot be transported from the leaves to the roots and fruit. This leads to a decline in root growth and an accumulation of carbohydrates in the leaves. Shrinkage of the root system leads to further reduction of uptake of other nutrients and increases the risk of multiple environmental stresses. A magnesium deficiency can lead to poor plant growth, yellowing leaves (especially older ones), and reduced crop yields. That's why ensuring adequate Magnesium in the soil is essential for both agriculture and the environment.

But the importance of magnesium goes further than fuelling photosynthesis.

This is an essential nutrient that is responsible for a wide array of fundamental physiological and biochemical processes in plants.



(Document with more info attached to this email)

Essential tree care – Pruning, Injections, and Soil testing

...are all key steps to ensure your trees remain healthy and productive. Pruning helps with airflow and sunlight penetration, preventing disease and ensuring the tree's energy is directed toward fruit production. Injections for preventing Phytophthora and soil testing, of course, provide insight into nutrient levels and help you tailor your fertilisation strategy more accurately. Contact your grower representative to schedule and book those tasks to ensure everything is taken care of on time.



Industry Meetings, Field Days and Happenings

AVOCO Grower Meeting - End of season debrief

Focus: AVOCO's end of season debrief summary of the 2024/25 export season and outline for the following 2025/26 season

Date: Wednesday, 7th May 2025

Time: 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm (Afternoon tea provided)

Location: 28 Western Avenue, Omokoroa

Parking: Available outside the building

We hope to see as many of you there as possible for what should be a very informative afternoon.



DMS Grower Dinner

Celebration of 2024-2025 Season

Date: Tuesday, 3rd June 2025

Start Time: 5.30 pm

Location: Trinity Wharf, 51 Dive Crescent, Tauranga

Parking: Available outside the building

(Invitation email will be sent out in the upcoming weeks)

