



AROUND THE NELSON REGION...

NELSON FRUIT QUALITY AND MATURITY PROGRESSION

Similar to previous years we are monitoring fruit quality and maturity progression across a range of varieties in the district.

Dry matter in all varieties monitored so far is relatively high, definitely higher than the long-term average. 2019 was an outstanding year for dry matter, and this year we are almost reaching the same levels.

In high dry matter years, we are normally not seeing too many problems to reach minimum brix levels for harvest. Fruit pressure is good, in most cases also slightly higher than last year. Starch progression is on average a few days behind last year. In some cases, maturity in Hi-Cane treated blocks was shifted forward noticeably.

Ulf

AROUND THE HAWKE'S BAY REGION...

ATTENTION ENVY GROWERS: ENVY HARVEST PARAMETERS AND GO & STOP DATES:

In New Zealand, Envy harvest Go & Stop date will be established by AgFirst. The Go & Stop dates will be determined based on maturity progression over several pre-harvest maturity samples.

Go dates will be issued when fruit quality parameters meet the requirements minimum requirements for ESP A (Fig 1.) A stop date will be issued, being 21-days after the Go date or standard maturity parameters (e.g. Pressure and SPI) fall out of specification. Any extension (3-days) of the Stop date will be based on an additional maturity sample taken 4-days prior to the original Stop date (17-days from Go date).

If you have any question about how Go & Stop Dates will be established, contact Justin at AgFirst Hawke's Bay.

MATURITY & QUALITY

Harvest Parameters

ESP	A	B	C
Pressure (Kg-f)	≥8.5	≥8.0	≥7.5
Minimum Pressure (Kg-f)	≥7.5 with no more than 20% (8 apple readings) below ≥7.5	≥7.2 with no more than 20% (8 apple readings) below ≥7.2	≥7.0 with no more than 10% (4 apple readings) below ≥7.0
Starch Pattern Index	2.0 – 3.0	2.0 – 4.0	2.0 – 5.0
Background Colour (ENVY™ swatch)	B3 – B5	B3 – B5	B3 – B6
Foreground Colour (ENVY™ swatch)	F4 - F7	F4 - F7	F4 - F7
Soluble Solids (% Brix)	≥12.0	≥12.0	≥12.0
Dry Matter (DM %)	≥13.5	≥13.5	≥13.5
Harvest Window (days)	1 – 14 Based on go/stop date sampling	1 – 14 Based on go/stop date sampling	1 – 21 Based on stop date sampling

Figure 1. Envy Harvest Parameters (Retrieved: 13/03/2020, From: <https://tandgtech.global/assets/Files/ENVY-Specifications-Booklet-2020-V-1-0-1126.pdf>)

Justin

I'M BACK...

After a bit of a sabbatical, I'm back and rearing to go...this time in Hawkes Bay.

As you know my wife & I left Nelson in December for the Hawkes Bay to be closer to our family. I'm pleased also to be back with the Agfirst family continuing from my 6 years with the Nelson team.

I'm already get out and about and meeting many growers and industry colleagues. I'm looking forward to meeting many more, so don't be a stranger!

My background is 30 years in the hort industry in the fields of marketing, fertiliser, management, finance and consultancy.

If you need some support in making those critical orcharding decisions, strategic planning, critical thinking or just want to bounce some ideas around, please give me a call (027 839 9613).

With my colleagues, I'll be covering the Hawkes Bay and Gisborne regions. With harvest in full swing, I wish all the very best to get that crop off in optimum condition.

Dean

LEAF PLUCKING TO ENHANCE COLOUR.

I was impressed this week with a block of Envy I saw under net.

The grower was leaf plucking immediately around the fruit and it was having a dramatic effect on enhancing colour development. The instructions were simple, "I want to see the fruit".

The before and after photos below show it best. The results are quick, within days all the fruit now exposed to the light were colouring up, easily taking them into high grade. Sunburn is a risk on blocks not under net but as the season progresses and light intensity drops off this risk decreases.



Figure 2: Before leaf plucking.



Figure 3: After leaf plucking.

Dean