



This newsletter has been produced as part of the Future Orchards® program. Future Orchards is a strategic levy investment under the Hort Innovation Apple and Pear Fund. It is funded by Hort Innovation using the apple and pear levy and funds from the Australian Government and is delivered by APAL and AgFirst.

Future Orchards

Business Development Group Update

Issue 20

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IN THIS ISSUE

Last issue we looked at more data worth recording as you progress through the season, why crop estimation is important and an alternative option for counting fruit on your trees to simplify thinning regimes.

With Christmas just around the corner and some hot, dry spells on the way I thought this issue was best focused on fruit sizing progression, regional bloom dates as well as looking at the nutrition toolset in OrchardNet. In addition to this I've also highlighted spreadsheet editing options for OrchardNet (great for updating your finalised packouts for last year's crop).

As part of my discussions around the national apple and pear crop estimate this year, I'd also just like to add that bird and fruit bat pressure is likely to be high with this year's weather events. If you do not have protection it may be worth looking at some of your options before bird numbers begin to build in the coming weeks.

Whilst I know it's a busy time, I hope everyone can find a couple of days over the coming weeks to take a small break.

Here's hoping for a good harvest season

- Nic

Interested in trying out OrchardNet?

You can take a look by logging into your own account or by looking at the Focus Orchard block details (Username: focus password: focus)

If you've forgotten your OrchardNet login then go to the website and click the 'Lost your password?' link.

<http://www.orchardnet.co.nz>

Don't have an OrchardNet account?

As part of the Future Orchards project OrchardNet is provided to Australian growers for free (up to 1200 blocks total). Please contact your local FLA or a member of the AgFirst team (see details on the last page of this newsletter) if you would like to give it a go.

Fruit sizing update



Nutrition - don't forget to check



Updating your 2018 packout results



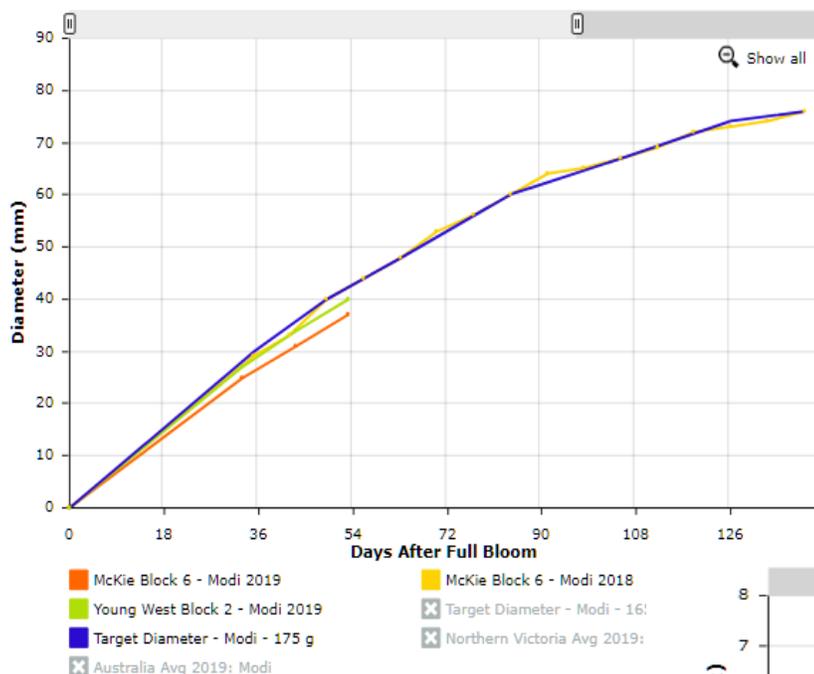
Fruit sizing and average full bloom dates

A number of growers across the country are well underway with their fruit size measurements for the 2018/19 season. If you're interested in tracking your fruit size progression get in contact with your local Front Line Advisor or a member of the AgFirst team (see last page of this newsletter for details)

This data can be put into OrchardNet where it can be compared to regional and national averages either by date or days after full bloom (DAFB). In doing so you can get a gauge on how your crop is progressing relative to other growers of the same variety. Fruit growth rates can also be monitored and used for your decision making; decisions on irrigation, fertigation and whether secondary hand-thinning is necessary can all be driven using data from your fruit growth rates.

Average full bloom dates this season

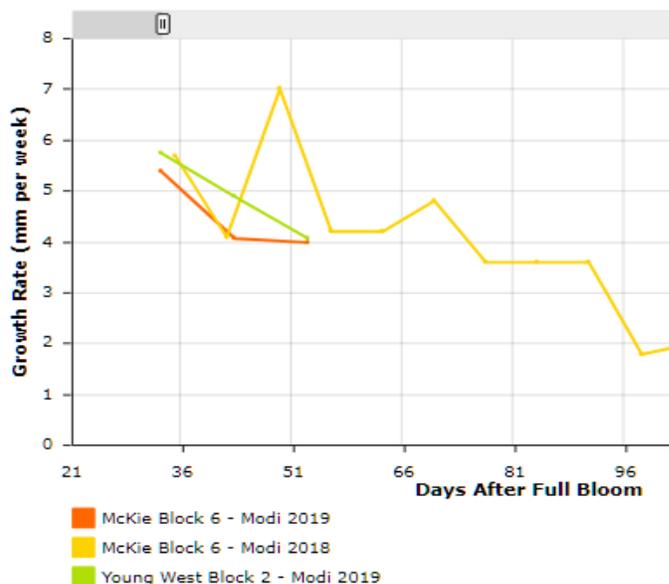
Variety	Goulburn Valley	Southern VIC	Adelaide Hills	QLD	TAS	Orange	Batlow	WA
Pink Lady	4/10/18	4/10/18	10/10/18	1/10/18	10/10/18	8/10/18	17/10/18	24/10/18
Gala	4/10/18	13/10/18	19/10/18	7/10/18	17/10/18	15/10/18	18/10/18	25/10/18
Packham's	1/10/18	-	-			-	-	-



The Fruit sizing graph in OrchardNet for Turnbull's Orchard in the Goulburn Valley (Young West and McKie Modi focus blocks). Regional and national averages have been hidden on the graph (click the square to hide any lines on OrchardNet.)



Fruit sizing icon on OrchardNet



Nutrition - getting, and tracking, your data

Plant nutrition is a vital component of maximizing your fruit quality and potential yields. The wrong balance, a deficiency or an excess of key nutrients can drastically change the attributes and storage quality of the fruit you're growing.

For those of you who have a regular nutrition monitoring program this data can be entered into OrchardNet's nutrition centre. Once entered the data can be compared to nutrition reference curves for apple production (these were developed in South Tyrol from thousands of apple leaf samples). Soil test results can also be compared to reference values; inputting fertilizer application data (amount, timing etc.) can also allow you to track the impacts of your fertilizer program on your soils through time.

By keeping track of the year-by-year movement of your soil and leaf test results you can begin to develop and refine your management decisions to ensure you're providing the optimal nutrition environment for your trees.

Small tweaks in your nutrition program could mean large differences to fruit packout, return bloom and fruitset. Make sure you are taking the time to look at your leaf tests.

What if you're not monitoring leaf nutrition?

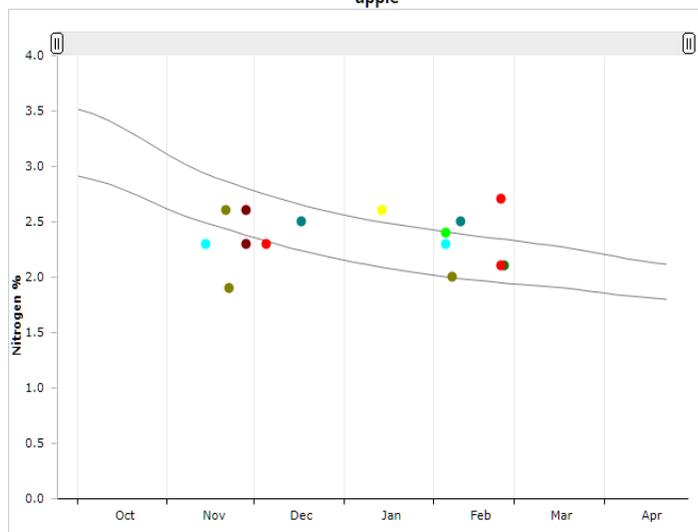
If you're keen to make a start I'd suggest taking a preharvest sample (~2-3 weeks before first pick) in some of your key blocks. If one block is always far superior on colour it may be worth comparing it to a poorer performing block of the same variety; you might find some interesting patterns in the results...

Additional samples in mid-late November and mid-January can also be useful where there is a specific concern with block nutrition or you're unsure of whether corrective actions will be sufficient.

Leaf Nutrition



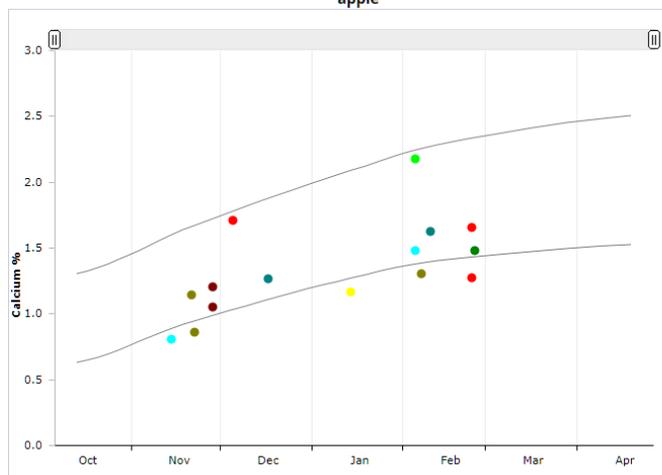
Nitrogen apple



Leaf Nutrition



Calcium apple



Updating your 2018 packout results

With most of the crop now packed you've probably got a pretty good idea where your fruit's packouts ended up for last season's harvest.

For those of you who put an estimated packout against your blocks in OrchardNet. Now's a great time to update and analyse your star-performers and blocks where additional work is required. Where your packhouse is completing reject analysis I would also suggest going through all of these results; small adjustments to your harvest management style could result in modest packout increases.

Within OrchardNet a 'bulk edit' tool can speed up this process.

Step 1

Once you have logged in click the below icon



Step 2

To update your packouts for your blocks you want to edit your data.



Step 3

Select the relevant year and block/weight units

Edit Actual Production

Year to edit?

What type of Block?

- Apple
- Grape
- Kiwifruit
- Pear
- Summerfruit

What Weight Unit?

- kg
- TCE
- Bins
- Tonnes per ha

Step 4

Update your data; ensure you tick the checkbox to save your edits (all in the top left corner). Once finished click the enter button. Don't forget to revise peak fruit size.

Block	Bin Size (kg)	Gross Bins Picked	Bins Submitted to Packhouse	Class 1 Packout %	Class 2 Packout %	Fruit Wt (g)	HG %
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All							
AU Demo Orchard							
AA							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuji	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="264.00"/>	<input type="text" value="264.00"/>	<input type="text" value="65"/>	<input type="text" value="15"/>	<input type="text" value="190"/>	<input type="text" value="50"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Granny	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="715.00"/>	<input type="text" value="715.00"/>	<input type="text" value="74"/>	<input type="text" value="13"/>	<input type="text" value="185"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jazz	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="225.50"/>	<input type="text" value="225.50"/>	<input type="text" value="85"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="170"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pink Lady	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="1103.30"/>	<input type="text" value="1103.30"/>	<input type="text" value="72"/>	<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="175"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R Gala	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="1137.40"/>	<input type="text" value="1137.40"/>	<input type="text" value="77"/>	<input type="text" value="11"/>	<input type="text" value="160"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red Delicious	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="181.50"/>	<input type="text" value="181.50"/>	<input type="text" value="68"/>	<input type="text" value="17"/>	<input type="text" value="180"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosy Glow	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="572.00"/>	<input type="text" value="572.00"/>	<input type="text" value="76"/>	<input type="text" value="11"/>	<input type="text" value="180"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sundowner	<input type="text" value="400"/>	<input type="text" value="206.80"/>	<input type="text" value="206.80"/>	<input type="text" value="65"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="190"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input type="button" value="Enter"/>							

I would then suggest checking the "Block analysis" report to anonymously compare your final block results against other growers.

See my article on the block analysis report in issue 15 of this newsletter.

You can find it on the Future Orchards library located here: <https://apal.org.au/industry-info/future-orchards/archive-library/#bdp>

Not set-up or unsure where to start?

If you would like to setup your blocks to allow comparison with other growers, please get in contact with your local Front Line Advisor or a member of the AgFirst team (contact details on the next page).

Interested in trying OrchardNet within your business?

OrchardNet takes some perseverance and may require a different way of thinking to what you're used to.

If you're not too sure how-to login to OrchardNet, enter data, add blocks or you just need a few extra pointers don't be afraid to get in contact with your local Front-Line Advisor (FLA), the OrchardNet Administrator (adrian.stone@agfirst.co.nz) or a member of the AgFirst team.

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