



**Calling all  
seniors...  
Kiwifruit  
needs you!**

# The NZ kiwifruit industry has more than 160 million trays of green and gold kiwifruit waiting to be picked and packed in 2021.

For that, we're going to need in excess of 23,000 seasonal workers from March, through to June on orchards and in packhouses in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Waihi/Coromandel, the Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay, the lower North Island and the Tasman area.

## ROLES

- Orchard work can be physically demanding but packhouse roles are available to suit all ages, including sorting/grading, packing, packhouse supervision and management, logistical support (e.g. forklift operation).
- Benefits of the work for seniors include socialising with others of all ages and nationalities, the exercise and the variety of locations in some of NZ's most beautiful regions.
- Kiwifruit work isn't just limited to picking and packing, however; growing kiwifruit is nearly a year-round operation and permanent roles are also available.

## PAY RATES

- Seasonal workers in the kiwifruit industry are guaranteed the minimum wage (\$20.00/hr from 1 April 2021). In the 2020 season, picking roles paid an average of \$24.35 per hour. Rates, however, do vary, from minimum wage to \$37.50. Unskilled packhouse roles such as packing start from minimum wage plus holiday pay; more skilled roles in the packhouse for trained and experienced workers can pay up to \$38 per hour.

## PROVISION FOR SENIORS

- A number of kiwifruit employers have made provisions for seniors wishing to take up seasonal roles such as shorter shifts and job-sharing arrangements. Some packhouse sites also offer parking space for the growing number of "grey nomads" - senior people travelling New Zealand and open to casual working opportunities.



## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- NZ Kiwifruit Growers Inc. places a strong emphasis on worker welfare and urges anyone considering taking up a seasonal role to thoroughly familiarise themselves with their rights and check out prospective employers carefully. Anyone who experiences issues or has concerns about their employment should contact NZKGI on 0800 232 5050.

## MORE INFORMATION

- More detailed information on working in the kiwifruit industry can be found on the NZKGI website ([www.nzkgi.org.nz](http://www.nzkgi.org.nz)), including the useful guide to kiwifruit jobs, *The Little Green and Gold Book* and the *Kiwifruit Jobs NZ* Facebook page (@KiwifruitJobsNZ).

