



FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the Kiwifruit Book. This book is intended as an open-access, up-to-date resource for new growers and secondary school teachers. The Kiwifruit Book is updated annually and covers all aspects of the industry - from orchard practices and the industry structure, through to relevant data related to international marketing and the exportation of kiwifruit.

2021 saw ongoing global disruption from the pandemic caused by Covid-19. By September 2021 the world has seen 2.25 billion people infected with over 4.55 million deaths. Over time we have watched the virus mutate into new more infectious and deadlier strains. While development of effective vaccines was fast-tracked, it has been a race to produce, distribute and administer those vaccines far enough and fast enough to get ahead of the virus.

The New Zealand Government's ongoing response to the pandemic, including the shutting of borders and movement restrictions, has saved New Zealand from a more lethal experience while creating other challenges. The kiwifruit industry has continued to take its responsibilities as an essential business very seriously. Protocols are in place and strictly adhered to, on-orchard, in post-harvest facilities and in related businesses, to protect our people at work. With the disruption resulting from public health mandated protocols, labour constraints, increased costs, transportation holdups and the overall fear and uncertainty, the 2020-21 season has been demanding to say the least. Despite this, 158 million trays of kiwifruit were successfully picked, packed and shipped to market, with jobs in all those sections of the value chain providing a lifeline for workers.

Zespri believes supply is nowhere near meeting global demand. SunGold license releases - 750 hectares per year from 2018-2021, with a further potential 350-750 ha/year signalled from 2022-26, and the returns made per tray sold, is what is driving the huge growth in the Kiwifruit Industry. Every 750ha of production equates to approximately 10 million trays of fruit. This in turn creates 1000 new seasonal jobs at harvest as orchards and packhouses expand in capacity. This rate of growth is therefore only sustainable if we have people to fill those jobs. Labour and Water are two of the biggest constraints for ongoing growth in the Kiwifruit industry. Read more about what is happening in these spaces in Ch 4 (Science and sustainability) and Ch 8 (Labour).

GoHort, the Horticulture Career Progression Manager network, has expanded in 2021. We now have CPMs in 8 regions, and a dedicated tertiary liaison to help bridge the gap between business and academia. The strength of this team lays in the synergies we gain from being able to adapt ideas that have worked in other regions to our own region's specific needs. Please see Ch 9.1 for more on the role of CPMs in the horticulture industry.

I hope that you enjoy using this book and find it to be a valuable resource. If you would like more information on featured topics in this book or can contribute to the next edition, please contact New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated on 0800 232 505.

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CONTRIBUTORS

NZKGI would like to sincerely thank all those that have invested their time into the research and development of information that has contributed to this kiwifruit book. Your input directly or indirectly has been of huge value. Those who have been instrumental to the 2021 Kiwifruit Book include:

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