

Discussion

HORTICULTURAL EXPORT AUTHORITY

Discussion on this proposal will be part of the field day on Saturday 27 November.

NZ Walnut Industry Group Registration

To register as a product group NZWIG needs to prove that it has a structure that represents all stakeholders in the walnut industry – growers, processors and exporters – and that a clear majority wish to be part of a product group with HEA.

It also needs to prove that it is a legal entity.

The primary function of the HEA is:

‘ to promote the effective export marketing of horticultural products’

The benefits for walnuts have been discussed by the committee over the last year and the committee would now like this to go to the wider membership for discussion. Some of the benefits include:

- Enforceable grade standards ensuring minimum quality entering the market and improved prices
- Structure which encourages growers, processors and exporters to work together. Under the Act all parties must be represented on the product group.
- Quality assurance programme to ensure grade standards are met.
- Co-ordinated approach to export marketing.
- Ability to develop and enforce a food safety programme
- Ability to generate funding for the product group and industry development.

Background

NZWIG would be the registered product group with HEA and through its Export Management Strategy [EMS] would have processors and/or marketers registered who would be doing the exporting – they would need to meet the quality standards in place to ensure only top quality exports occurred. Any processor/exporter could apply to NZWIG to become registered but would need to meet with the standards lodged with the HEA through the NZWIG EMS.

HEA Executive Director, Janet Skilton will provide a detailed background of the HEA and is keen to field questions about the prospects for NZWIG as a possible future product group.

The cost to NZWIG to become an HEA partner before any exports occur is \$1000 per year.

Events

Spraying, Exporting, Benchmarking and Banks Peninsula Tour

27 & 28 November

Saturday 27th

1.00pm: Horticulture Training laboratory [HTL]. Location: opposite the Cricket training nets on Farm Road. University Entry #2 (Calder Ave) off the Ellesmere Junction Road.

Seminar: "Introduction to Spraying" - including, use and safety of sprays, precautions and legislation.

Presentation by John Grierson of Cropwatch. A very important subject in the management of our orchards.

2.00pm: Move on to the Walnut Trial Block for static display, and a demonstration by Nigel Robertson of Lifestyle Farm Services.

See various size units that you may consider in the development of your orchard.

3.45pm: Afternoon tea.

4.00pm: Back to the HTL for a brief presentation by Janet Skilton, Executive Director of the Horticultural Export Authority [HEA].

Introduction to the proposal that NZWIG registers as the Walnut Industry's representative under the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority Act 1987.

Opportunity for questions and answers.

This proposal is possibly one of the most important decisions that NZWIG must make in securing the ability to ensure our industry

is internationally recognized as a quality producer. A vital decision that requires all Growers' input.

5.00pm: Update on the Benchmarking Research Project by Robyn Adams and Jane McKenzie.

Sunday 28th

9.30am: Property of Graeme and Jude Hamilton, Gebbies Pass, just above Teddington [look out for the Walnut sign].

A young walnut orchard with plantings of 7 year old Rex and Meyric trees and in the first year of good production.

10.45am: Property of Tim and Sarah Coop, Port Levy.

An old established avenue of walnut trees dominate the entrance to this property. Beyond the homestead, there is a later planting of over 100 seedling walnuts.

12.00noon: Lunch, BYO, Pidgeon Bay Domain. Picnic tables, cold water & toilets available.

12.45pm: Hays Reserve, Pidgeon Bay.

Take a 20 min walk through some of the last remnants of Matai, Kahikatea and Totara on the Peninsula.

2.00pm: Piper Valley.

Rex Craw will give a history of the old established walnut trees planted in his orchard and also of others planted around Piper Valley.

3.30pm: Takamatua.

NZW1G member, Rod Naish will take us through the establishment phases of his young walnut orchard and describe the seedling trees from which he is harvesting.

5.30pm: Arrive at our BYO [everything] Christmas BBQ dinner destination back on the Canterbury Plains.

A map for the day will be handed out when we first meet at the Hamilton's property. 4WD vehicles would be preferable, but not essential, however to reduce vehicle numbers we suggest you "carpool" amongst friends. We are inviting our friends from Tree Crops to join us for the day.

SEE YOU THERE

For any further information please contact John Mathews, 03 347 4318.

Irrigation Workshop

Ross Jamieson made notes at the workshop led for NZWIG by Dr Tony Daveron. The following are extracts from Ross's notes.

Money spent on wells, pumps, mains, submains and delivery is a large investment. Using all the components wisely will give you better crops, quality and flavour. In the future you may have to demonstrate efficient use and seasonal allocation. Consents have got a lot more complex.

First establish the soil type and the storage capacity of your soils. Discover the depth of your water (water table). This can be checked on the Ecan website. Record the pressure at the headworks. Record the amperage flowing through your pump. Record the flow rate (usually by a meter installed in the line). Record filter operation and flushing of the system. Record pressures and flows in submains and laterals. Record dripper and sprinkler output.

All these should be recorded each week of each season.

Record rainfall in an appropriate rain gauge. You should also record your solar radiation (which depends on shelter systems and location).

If you run your trees short of water the plants will be under stress and crop yield will be reduced. Trees use 85% of the water intake to keep cool.

Measure soil moisture regularly – at least every 4-5 days.

Use a system that is useful for predictions (don't let your trees get to stress point).

There are many systems for measuring soil moisture. The old system was to dig a hole, take 1 kg of soil, cook for 1 hour to drive off all the moisture, weigh the soil. Soil moisture is the dry weight over the wet weight expressed as a percentage.

Other systems are based on measuring moisture suction, reflectivity and electrical resistance.

The neutron probe system is best option in stoney soils.

The NZWIG Newsletter is edited by
Graeme Nicholas,
1/21 Hewitts Road, Christchurch, 8001.
graeme@nicholas.net.nz