
NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Opinion pieces:

It starts with us

In this week's HortNZ update Nadine Tunley reflects on the recent NZ Apples & Pears conference, and that it's only us – the horticulture industry – who can solve our problems but also, that we do have the capability to respond to our challenges and in doing so, show the world a thing or two. [Full article here.](#)

Turbulence in global trade

Amidst the political topsy turvy of recent weeks came the news that the Government has refreshed its Trade Recovery Strategy. That's good news because, for exporters and the global economy as a whole, it's tough out there. The pandemic is by no means over, there is war in Europe, supply chain bottlenecks are disrupting markets, inflation and protectionism are taking their toll. In this post, Stephen Jacobi, Executive Director, NZ International Business Forum writes about the turbulence in global trade. [Full article here.](#)

Industry news:

Growers choose not to expand SunGold Kiwifruit production outside of New Zealand

Zespri growers have voted not to progress a proposed expansion of Zespri kiwifruit plantings in the Northern Hemisphere. The proposal to expand the planted hectares of Zespri SunGold Kiwifruit in overseas countries (excluding Chile and China) by up to 10,000 additional hectares was put forward to support the industry's strategy of marketing Zespri Kiwifruit to consumers all 12 months of the year.

"The result is disappointing but our industry is structured to empower growers by giving them direct influence over the key strategic decisions outside of Zespri's core business. While there was strong support for expansion, it was not at the level required to proceed," Zespri CEO Dan Mathieson says. [Full article here.](#)

Tomato growers highlight issues leading to high prices

Tomatoes NZ is looking for feedback from growers about the issues they're facing, intent on showing both the government and consumers how expensive and hard it's become to grow the fruit. That is why the industry group is getting feedback from growers. It highlights the main issues growers are having, such as rising energy and production costs, labour shortages, and biosecurity incursions.

The cost of energy used to heat glasshouses had skyrocketed, with coal between 45 and 65% higher in price and gas up 50%. Sourcing labor is also still challenging, the document said. Tomato growing businesses were operating with 40-60% of employee numbers due to the effects of Covid-19 and border

restrictions. Tomatoes NZ chair Barry O'Neil said the group was constantly hearing about high prices from the media and the public, yet growers were not seeing the high prices due to increased costs. Full article [here](#).

Highly anticipated New Zealand bred apricots closer to fruition

New Zealand's summerfruit industry has established NZ Summerfresh Ltd to commercialise the first three new apricot cultivars released by Plant & Food Research after nearly two decades of research and development. Following its inaugural annual general meeting on August 8, chairman Stephen Darling said NZ Summerfresh Ltd would now transition to a grower co-operative to commercialise the proprietary varieties for export and domestic consumption from late summer 2022-2023.

"These varieties have the potential to revitalise and relaunch the premium apricot category on the global stage. Bred for flavour, colour and sensory characteristics, the apricots are substantially better than nearly every other apricot I know of and could be the best in the world." Darling said.

"Markets in Asia, Australia and the United States would be targeted initially. Australia is an important market because our season complements Australia product well. Our apricots will arrive after the local product, therefore extending the season. Consumers in Asia favour apricots with increased sweetness, low acidity and bright colour – all characteristics we can deliver,". Full article [here](#).

Reports:

NZGAP Annual Activity Report

The NZGAP Annual Activity Report for 2022 has now been published. The report provides an overview of the scheme's strategy, structure, standards, and activity over the last year (1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022). Full report [here](#).

Upcoming events:

- **Citrus NZ Conference & AGM, 22 September 2022, Gisborne. Full details [here](#).**
- **HortNZ AGM, 21 September 2022, Nelson. Full details [here](#).**
- **World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. Full details [here](#).**

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