

**PMAC weekly update 5th to 12th November**

1. **Government agencies**: New Zealand a world leader in land management and climate change research; Inside stories food & beverage film; China Market Research; NZ-China trade: Trust is gold
2. **New Zealand News** New Zealand opens embassy in Stockholm; Trade deal fantastic for horticulture; Workers for NZ horticulture; Zespri makes $95 on share sales; Zespri seeks $70 million damages; Man in kiwifruit smuggling case named; Collaboration launched to create super-premium hops; 2018-2019 apple acreage forecast to be up 3 %; Joint agreement to protect onion industry; Hawke's Bay product Jazz voted UK's tastiest apple; Videos to support NZ flower week; Cannabis grower acquires 10,000 m2 hydroponic greenhouse; Asparagus going great as harvesting continues; New residue compliance information booklet; 88% chance of El Nino; PGG Wrightson shareholders vote to sell; Guiney, McBride win Fonterra board seats; Select committee recommends Waimea dam local bill be passed with amendments; Young Horticulturist of the Year announced; Nursery industry runner up Young Hort 2018
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; Chile and China signed agreements to export fruit; France: Ban on metam sodium-based pesticide; Bayer CEO says would consider glyphosate settlement depending on costs; Ireland: Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme rolled out; Detecting E.coli strains using molecular electronics; DogBot an affordable solution to labour deficit?

***Editors comments***

*If there is a theme this week it is about maintaining our exports . In the NZ news there are three articles from Mike Chapman. Two dealing with our need for more workers to harvest and tend our crops and one celebrating the advantages the CPTPP agreement can bring . If we can attract the workers the CPTPP provides us with more opportunity of reduced tariffs and more certainty in an increasingly uncertain world.*

*In the international section an article on a new agreement between Chile and China shows just how well the Chileans are gaining access to China. They are certainly growing their access to China at a much faster rate than NZ. However previous articles have noted the lack of profitability for their cherries so perhaps it’s not all good news. But if they can improve their reputation in China Chile could well become a very significant competitor*

*To counter this the NZ fernmark supported by the NZ story organisation provides exporters with a way to build profile and make the most of the “New Zealand brand” . Under the NZTE section there are a couple of examples of their work and research to support New Zealand exporters*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **New Zealand a world leader in land management and climate change research**

MPI's Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change (SLMACC) research programme supports the generation of new climate change knowledge across New Zealand's agriculture and forestry sectors. An independent review found SLMACC has triggered new research and boosted New Zealand's understanding of the potential impacts and implications of climate change for a range of primary industries, particularly pastoral farming systems and responding to drought.

You can download a copy of the booklet and get review reports, including a summary of findings on the SLMACC web page. [Find out more about SLMACC](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/farming/sustainable-land-management-and-climate-change-research-programme/) The review focused on 4 areas Forestry research, technology transfer and:

* ***Adaptation*** refers to how our farming systems, livestock management, crops, and horticulture need to change to cope with our changing climate.
* ***Mitigation research*** seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and in particular reduced nitrous oxide from soil and plants.

The other two areas cover .  The review estimated future profits of $4.9 million across sheep, beef and dairy farmers and orchardists, from the $0.45 million invested into this project. [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/review-finds-new-zealand-a-world-leader-in-land-management-and-climate-change-research/)



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| * 1. **Inside stories food & beverage film - chinese subtitles.** |
| The NZ story has recently released Food & Beverage Inside Stories film to include optional Chinese subtitles. Featuring local and global chefs, food and wine producers and food entrepreneurs this film will help you showcase our unique offering to Chinese consumers and buyers. [see](https://toolkit.nzstory.govt.nz/assets/237847?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=November&utm_content=China%20Market%20Research%20-%20CTA) |
| * 1. [**China Market Research**](http://mail.nzstory.govt.nz/mail/link/TedhE79X2h74k5ZQzgMxWQ) |
| China is brimming with business opportunities. NZTE has done some in-market research – revealing how Chinese consumers and buyers from Shanghai to Beijing view New Zealand. If you’re thinking of marketing to China, click [here to download our insights.](https://toolkit.nzstory.govt.nz/assets/243584?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=November&utm_content=China%20Market%20Research%20-%20CTA) |

* 1. **NZ-China trade: Trust is gold**

In November, New Zealand exporters had an opportunity the size of China to capture the attention of the world’s largest e-commerce market at the inaugural China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai and after New Zealand Week was run featuring New Zealand food & beverage brands

Encouragingly, following reports of a slowing economy, China has also shown robust GDP growth in the first half of 2018, stable leadership and society and strong growth of domestic tourism and consumption. The New Zealand Government FernMark Licence Programme is one way in that it verifies that products are grown or made or designed in New Zealand by reputable New Zealand companies.

The chair of the Collective, Hayden Johnston says their products will hugely benefit from the FernMark’s association with brand New Zealand. “The FernMark’s IP protection service also monitors over 1,000 e-commerce markets in China, including TMALL and Taobao. This helps to ensure all products bearing the FernMark are licensed to do so thereby providing a mark of trust and authenticity.”

The FernMark is inextricably linked to brand New Zealand. For many Chinese, New Zealand is a brand, not a country. And brands are important in China. A 2016 Nielsen Global Brand-Origin Report found 91% of Chinese respondents rated a brand’s country of origin is as important as or more important than other purchasing drivers such as selection/choice, price, function and quality. Safer ingredients and processing were the top reasons for choosing global (50%) brands.

Full article available here



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **New Zealand opens embassy in Stockholm**

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters formally opened New Zealand’s new embassy in Stockholm last week. While in Stockholm, Mr Peters met with Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, as well as Deputy Prime Minister Isabella Lövin, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. The New Zealand Embassy is co-located with the UK mission in Stockholm. New Zealand’s [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-opens-embassy-stockholm)

# *Speech provided at the opening of Stockholm Embassy*

The decision to re-open our Embassy in Sweden is grounded in the same basic realities that led us to open a post ten years ago (which closed 4 years later die to budget cuts) .

New Zealand and Sweden are committed to the same fundamental values: democracy; the rule of law; open and inclusive government; equality, human rights and personal freedoms. We have followed similar paths in seeking prosperity, social justice and opportunity for all at home; and we remain at the forefront of countries seeking to advance a just rules-based system and contributing to collective efforts to address shared global challenges.

And we are equally grateful for Sweden’s strong support for our efforts to deepen our ties with the European Union, including through the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement. Over the coming year we will explore how we can build on these firm foundations and take our partnership to the next level. So as we open this Embassy tonight, we look forward to the new possibilities that it will also be opening up for our already close relationship. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/opening-stockholm-embassy)

**General**

* 1. **"Trade deal fantastic for horticulture"**

Mike Chapman writes - Largely unnoticed by media last week was the announcement that the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will take effect from 30 December this year. The CPTPP is very important for three reasons: first, it reduces tariffs; second, it further opens up some of our key trading partners for increased trade; and finally, for New Zealand, it gives us greater trading security.

When this trade agreement comes into force, tariff reductions will instantly return more money back to New Zealand. For horticulture this is significant. We export about 60% of the fruit and vegetables that we grow in New Zealand and we earn premium returns across the world for our exports. From what we export, 32% goes to countries that are in the CPTPP deal. That totals in value about NZ$2 billion. The big tariff win for New Zealand is from Japan where annually we pay almost NZ$45 million in tariffs. The elimination of tariffs from the CPTPP will result in a NZ$37 million saving straight away. This is significant and tangible. At the grower level, this translates into an average of NZ$12,790 for each kiwifruit grower, an average of NZ$58,800 for each buttercup squash grower, and an average of NZ$7,390 to each onion grower.

Once a free trade agreement is reached with a country not only are tariffs reduced it also opens up trade dialogue. Access issues for our exports into that country can be more readily resolved. There is good will on both sides. Then there are trade delegations that explore opportunities for new and greater export opportunities.

The final reason the CPTPP is so important is because we are seeing tightening of free trade conditions around the world, driven by the “trade war” between China and United States, and reducing support for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from some countries. The strongest feature of the WTO framework is that it provides certainty for exporters that their goods will be accepted in the country they are exported to. If the WTO framework falls into abeyance then that certainty is lost. What the CPTPP does for the countries in that agreement is provide trade certainty.

[Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9039214/trade-deal-fantastic-for-horticulture/)

* 1. **Workers for NZ horticulture**

Two articles by Mike Chapman the first title Increase in Pacific worker numbers good for horticulture Hort NZ is pleased Social Development Minister Carmel Sepuloni and Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway have increased the amount of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers who will be available for the upcoming busy fruit harvest season. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9039266/increase-in-pacific-worker-numbers-good-for-horticulture/)

*The second titled No workers, no fruit and veges"*

There have been three recent announcements of interest to horticulture:

1. The Prime Minister and the Chair of the Business Advisory Council announcing the four priority areas for the Council
2. Unemployment at a low 3.9%
3. The cap for the Pacific Island Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme being lifted by 1,750; a much need increase in our seasonal workforce

Cumulatively, these announcements add up to the very sobering fact that we haven’t got enough workers in New Zealand to sustain growth across all sectors including tourism, aged-care and feeding ourselves.

Across the ditch in Australia, their response to labour shortages is to make it much easier for seasonal and semi-permanent foreign workers to come and work on their farms, in their orchards and commercial vegetable gardens. There is no cap on the Australian equivalent of our RSE scheme. That means, Australian employers have no limit on the number of Pacific Islander workers they can employ, and they can work for nine months. It is not surprising that the numbers of Pacific Islander workers in Australian horticulture in the past two years has increased by 40 percent. For entry-level and medium skilled jobs for all small to medium sized businesses foreign workers can come in for three years. The Australian Government has moved to put in place an immediate fix – allowing more workers in. This is taking these workers away from New Zealand, making our situation worse.

So it is disappointing to note that the Business Advisory Council is not focusing on the immediate crisis facing New Zealand – a complete lack of labour with Australia taking away workers from New Zealand. Sure the Council will focus on building tomorrow’s skills, accelerating our regions’ growth, attracting high quality investment, and unleashing our small to medium sized enterprises. But none of that will be able to happen if we do not have an immediate labour supply fix for the next few years, because there will be no small to medium sized enterprises to unleash and nothing to invest in.

While these four targets are necessary for our medium term prosperity; we need to get there first.

It will also be a point of note to see if this Business Advisory Council appreciates that it is the rural sector’s businesses that drive New Zealand’s economy and that it needs to work with the rural sector to develop the programmes for the future. But perhaps the significance of the rural sector has not been recognised, as there are few members on this Council from the rural sector. This seems strange as New Zealand’s wealth is driven by the rural sector and the rural sector is responsible for the growth in New Zealand’s export income. [Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9041105/no-workers-no-fruit-and-veges/)

**Industry news**

* 1. **Zespri makes $95 on share sales**

Zespri has made good progress in strengthening alignment and grower ownership and control of the company through a targeted share offer and buy-back programme. The offer closed on 19 October and Zespri has accepted 427 applications to purchase over 12 million shares for a total of over $95 million. Participation was open to growers who do not own shares and to growers who hold less than one share per tray of their production. Over half of the applications were from previously unshared growers and the percentage of total shares in Zespri held by growers has increased to 85 percent.  
   
The capital raised through the share offer enables Zespri to fund in full a buy-back programme from eligible shareholders. This was targeted at shareholders who no longer produce kiwifruit and shareholders who are ‘over-aligned’, meaning that they hold over 1.5 shares per tray of production and over. There were 257 applications for the buy-back involving nearly 9 million shares for a total of over $70 million. The number of former growers holding Zespri shares has reduced by 30 percent.  
The share offer and buy-back were at the same price of $8.00 per share, determined by Zespri’s Board on the basis of an independent valuation. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9039177/zespri-makes-on-share-sales/)

* 1. **Zespri seeks $70 million damages**

In the Auckland High Court, Zespri has launched a civil case for $70 million in damages against the person who allegedly sent plants of its SunGold kiwifruit variety to China. It is believed the area covered by the illegal plantings there is about 160 hectares. They were discovered in 2016 and are thought to have been growing since 2012. Zespri communications spokesman Yannis Naumann said the $70m damages were calculated based on the licence value of SunGold (or Gold3, the official title) licences in New Zealand and the loss of opportunity for Zespri to license Gold3 in China.

[Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9039156/zespri-seeks-million-damages/)

* 1. **Man in kiwifruit smuggling case named**

Kiwifruit exporter Zespri now claims that Opotiki grower Haoyu Gao, who it accuses of smuggling highly valuable kiwi gold fruit plants to China, may have also taken them to Australia.

Permission to give out Gao's name to the press was given by Justice Sarah Katz of Auckland High Court Tuesday. Zespri is seeking damages of up to $30 million there, for infringement on its intellectual property rights to the G3 and G9 kiwifruit it developed over years with New Zealand scientists.

The court has heard of an extensive inquiry by Zespri in China involving private investigators and NZ border protection agencies searching Gao as he left to and returned from China with grafting tools.

Zespri's global production manager Shane Max said in evidence yesterday that documents Zespri obtained under the Official Information Act showed how Gao also conspired to export Zespri's G3 and G9 plant material to a grower in Victoria, Australia. Gao's lawyer, Eugene St John, earlier said his client denied taking the plant material to China and only ever discussed growing techniques for the gold fruit on WeChat and other communications. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9040212/man-in-kiwifruit-smuggling-case-named/)

* 1. **Collaboration launched to create super-premium hops**

A new joint venture has been launched in New Zealand which aims to develop unique super-premium hops. Hāpi Research Ltd is a joint venture between Wellington craft brewer Garage Project and Freestyle Farms, a Nelson hop farm. The craft beer and hop breeding program has seen Hāpi Research Ltd partner with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to deliver Hāpi – Brewing Success, a $13.25 million, 7-year Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) program.

The Hāpi – Brewing Success PGP program will create a cross-industry research and development program that’s commercially viable, sustainable in the long-term, with strong commercialisation pathways driven by the market [Full article available here](https://www.theshout.co.nz/collaboration-launched-to-create-super-premium-hops/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=71118_newsletter&utm_content=71118_newsletter+Version+A+CID_3a34eae52430b2eed738ae5b6b4b0ac4&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Collaboration%20launched%20to%20create%20super-premium%20hops)

* 1. **2018-2019 apple acreage forecast to be up 3 %**

An article full of facts and figures about New Zealands increasing Apple productions The apple harvest area is forecast to be up three percent at 9,700 hectares (ha) in 2018/2019. This increase coupled with normal weather for the growing season should boost apple production to  583,000 metric tons (MT), a 2.6 percent increase over 2017/2018.

Orchard area expansion is trending upwards with an estimated 300-400 ha of new land being planted each year or three to four percent per annum. Industry sources reported that growers are replanting or grafting nearly ten percent of their existing planted area to include more productive and higher value varieties. Around 40 to 50 percent of the planted area now consists of Intellectual Property (IP) protected varieties such as Envy, Dazzle, Rockit or Honeycrisp. Growers planting IP protected varieties pay either a royalty when planting the trees or a volume related IP fee. [Click here for the full report.](https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Wellington_New%20Zealand_11-1-2018.pdf%20) [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9040245/new-zealand-apple-acreage-forecast-to-be-up-percent-at-hectares/)

* 1. **Joint agreement to protect onion industry**

Biosecurity New Zealand and Onions New Zealand Inc have reached an agreement on funding to prepare for future biosecurity responses and on 7th November they signed a Sector Readiness Operational Agreement.

Biosecurity NZ and Onions New Zealand Inc joined the GIA in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

CEO of Onions New Zealand Inc Michael Ahern says: “We see this agreement as a sound initial investment in risk management for our industry under GIA. There is no doubt that the cornerstone of a good biosecurity strategy is a well-considered Industry/Government readiness work plan.” One of the tasks ahead is to draft a readiness plan for Delia antiqua (onion fly), a pest responsible for up to 90% of crop losses in temperate regions overseas. This pest is not currently found in New Zealand. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9040207/joint-agreement-to-protect-onion-industry/)

**Crop news**

* 1. **Hawke's Bay product Jazz voted UK's tastiest apple**

Jazz has again been voted the UK's Tastiest Apple'after T&G Global's grower Baretilt Farm in Kent picked up the accolade at the UK's National Fruit Show. It is grown in 10 countries under a closely controlled quality growing programme, managed by trademark owner and one of New Zealand's largest horticulture exporters, T&G Global (formerly Turners and Growers).

Jazz has won the award four times in six years, and earlier this year the variety became the UK's fifth-most popular apple with consumers spending $95 million in the past year, a 36.5 per cent jump since 2016. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12156725)

* 1. **Videos to support NZ flower week**

Shipherd Nurseries is family owned and operated; established by Jaap and Annet van Dorsser in 1987. In 2006, their son Frans joined the business allowing for further growth. To celebrate

NZ Flowers Week a video has been produced about their business see it in the [Full article available here](http://www.floraldaily.com/article/9039341/growing-roses-for-the-whole-of-new-zealand/)

Utopia Orchids are professional growers and exporters of mini Cymbidium Orchids and Italian Ruscus.

They grow product for the domestic and export market and you will find their cut flowers and foliage being sold throughout retailers all across New Zealand.Take a look at his property and hear his story in the video: [Full article available here](http://www.floraldaily.com/article/9039340/new-zealand-a-utopia-of-orchids/)

* 1. **Cannabis grower acquires 10,000 m2 hydroponic greenhouse**

Helius Therapeutics has announced the acquisition of an additional 10,000sqm hydroponic greenhouse on a 8 hectare site in Kumeu, Auckland. The company plans to grow a high-CBD (cannabidiol) cannabis in this controlled greenhouse environment. Cannabis biomass from the Helius West cultivation site in Kumeu will be processed at the company’s GMP-certified East Tamaki facility for C02 extraction, research, testing and manufacturing. [Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9039244/new-zealand-cannabis-grower-acquires-m-hydroponic-greenhouse/)

* 1. **Asparagus going great as harvesting continues**

According to New Zealand asparagus growers, a spell of good weather has produced high quality crops this season. Asparagus is grown throughout New Zealand; key growing regions are Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Horowhenua and Canterbury. Chairman of the New Zealand Asparagus Council Mike Arnold said harvesting is going well: "

In a typical season, growers produce about 2,000 to 2,200 tonnes. While most of the produce is consumed by New Zealand consumers, [newshub.co.nz](https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/rural/2018/11/asparagus-on-a-roll-as-harvesting-continues.html) quoted Arnold as saying  there is a growing export market, with the Japanese particularly keen on the sweet flavor of New Zealand-grown asparagus.[Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9039380/new-zealand-asparagus-going-great-as-harvesting-continues/)

* 1. **New residue compliance information booklet**

A TomatoesNZ “New Zealand residue compliance information for fresh greenhouse tomatoes 2018-19” booklet has been posted to members in early November. This replaces the previous two-sided A3 “residue compliance information” poster that has been produced for the last two years. TomatoesNZ have changed to a booklet format so that they can add information on the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) controls for individual trade named products. The booklet and a spreadsheet (MS Excel) version are also available electronically to members. Included in the mail with the booklet are ten “Exotic Pests Fact Sheets”, designed to raise awareness of the high-risk tomato pests that we do not yet have in New Zealand.[Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9040660/new-zealand-new-residue-compliance-information-booklet/)

**Other**

* 1. **88% chance of El Nino**

NIWA are forecasting an 88% chance of New Zealand experiencing warm El Nino conditions over the summer period according to Principal Forecasting Scientist, Chris Brandolino. He said while it was not set in stone it is looking increasingly likely, adding the country and in particular the North Island, will need to brace for a windy November. He said while the West Coast may get quite wet, a cool and wet next three months for the whole country was looking unlikely.

Conditions so far this spring have been good for many farmers and Federated Farmers Vice President, Andrew Hoggard, said the outlook for the weather is very much business as usual, noting there is always a possibility of drought and cyclones and each year there is a need to react to whatever the weather throws at you. He added that farmers need to prepare for the summer weather based on the law of averages. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/108244919/Dry-and-windy-conditions-in-store-for-November-as-El-Nino-approaches)

* 1. **PGG Wrightson shareholders vote to sell**

PGG Wrightson’s shareholders have voted 96.9% in favour of selling the Group’s seed division to Danish company, DLF Seeds . The sale will see the company receive around $413 million, of which $292 million will be paid out to shareholders. Company deputy chairman, Trevor Burt, said that the PGW will remain a sustainable business moving into the future and a leading player in New Zealand’s rural services sector with 94 stores and 2,000 staff. He did add the company would need to cut its cloth to match the business that is left, and a review is starting to look at the right structure and operating model for the business moving forward. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/108214721/pgg-wrightson-shareholders-vote-to-sell)

* 1. **Guiney, McBride win Fonterra board seats**

Outgoing Zespri Chairman, Peter McBride, and South Canterbury farmer, Leonie Guiney, have both been voted by farmers onto the board of Fonterra Co-operative Group. The third vacancy has been left unfilled with none of the other candidates receiving a 50% favourable vote from farmers. [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/guiney-mcbride-win-fonterra-board-seats)

* 1. **Select committee recommends Waimea dam local bill be passed with amendments**

The report of the Governance and Administration Select Committee has recommended that the local bill designed to enable the construction of the Waimea Dam is passed. Nelson MP, Dr Nick Smith, welcomed the Committee’s unanimous support for the bill’s passage, noting that they were strongly influenced by the strength of submissions from Council, Environmentalists and Water Scientists that the dam was necessary to address minimum water flow and water quality issues in summer. He added the evidence presented also highlighted that the project was in the best economic interests of

the region. The bill will enable the inundation of 9.67 hectares of conservation land in Mt Richmond State Forest Park and transfer an area of crown riverbed to the Council to enable the dam to be built.

[Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/108396283/select-committee-recommends-waimea-dam-local-bill-be-passed-with-amendments)

* 1. **Young Horticulturist of the Year announced**

Annabel Bulk from Felton Road Wines in Bannockburn, Central Otago has been declared New Zealand's Young Horticulturist of the Year 2018 Winner. She also won the **Fruitfed Supplies Leadership Award and Horticentre Charitable Trust Community Engagement Award**

**2nd Place** Devin Westley ( also winner of the **The Bayer Best Practice Award, The Best Speech Award and T&G Practical Components Award)**

**3rd Place** Danni van der Heijden ( also winner of **The AGMARDT Market Innovation Project Winner:** [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12157340)

* 1. **Nursery industry runner up Young Hort 2018**

Runner up Young Horticulturalist of the year Devin Westley is an extraordinary young man with a huge passion for his work as a nurseryman and innovator in the industry. His employer Southern Woods Nursery and NZ Plant Producers’ Industry are delighted with his win/placing as New Zealand Young Horticulturalist and thought this was a likely outcome for him in the competition.

Devin achieved an overall second place finish in the competition. Devin also took home awards for best practice, practical activities and best speech on the night at the award’s dinner in Auckland last night.[Full article available here](http://www.floraldaily.com/article/9041245/new-zealand-nursery-industry-runner-up-young-hort/)



1. **International news**

**Comment**

* 1. **GAIN reports**

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. With regard to import regulations for a particular market New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site. These are collated specifically for New Zealand product. However the Gain reports often provide additional information that is useful e.g. on grading and labelling, economic profiles. This week see:

1. **Canada 75 Days to Comprehensive Regulatory Overhaul** Canada’s Safe Food for Canadians Regulations enter into force on January 15, 2019.  Many provisions will apply on day one, while certain provisions will be phased in over longer periods – up to 30 months after entry into force.  The Canadian Food Inspection Agency website contains extensive information on upcoming regulatory changes and timelines.   Keywords: Canada, CA18061, SFCR, Food Safety, Regulation  
   [75 Days to Comprehensive Regulatory Overhaul\_Ottawa\_Canada\_11-2-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/75%20Days%20to%20Comprehensive%20Regulatory%20Overhaul_Ottawa_Canada_11-2-2018.pdf)
2. **Canada Fresh Deciduous Fruit** The United States was Canada’s largest supplier of apples, pears, and fresh table grapes in marketing year (MY) 2017/18.  For MY 2018/19, FAS/Ottawa forecasts the U.S. market share of Canadian imports of fresh apples to remain at 80 percent.  [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Ottawa\_Canada\_10-31-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Ottawa_Canada_10-31-2018.pdf)
3. **Chile Apples, Fresh, Grapes, Table, Fresh, Pears, Fresh 2018|** Post estimates Chile’s apple production will reach 1.240 million metric tons (MT) and 720,000 MT of exports assuming average yields, and a 4.2 percent decrease over MY2017/18 in planted area.   [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Santiago\_Chile\_10-29-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_10-29-2018.pdf)
4. **China Severe Weather Hurts Domestic Production, Opening the Door for Imports** Extreme weather this spring across northern China will result in a sharp fall of the country’s apple, pear, and table grape production in MY 2018/19. However, Chinese demand for high quality fruit remains strong and imports of apples, pears, and table grapes are all expected to increase in MY 2018/19. [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Beijing\_China - Peoples Republic of\_10-30-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Beijing_China%20-%20Peoples%20Republic%20of_10-30-2018.pdf)
5. **The EU’s Promotion Programs for Agricultural Products in 2018** In 2018, the European Commission allocated a total of EUR 172.5 million to 79 programs for the promotion of the European Union’s (EU) agri-food products both in Europe and worldwide.  The focus is on promoting EU quality schemes and labels such as Geographical Indications (GIs) and organic products, especially in export markets outside of the EU.  [The EU’s Promotion Programs for Agricultural Products in 2018\_Brussels USEU\_EU-28\_10-30-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/The%20EU%e2%80%99s%20Promotion%20Programs%20for%20Agricultural%20Products%20in%202018_Brussels%20USEU_EU-28_10-30-2018.pdf)
6. **Japanese Fresh Fruit Market Overview 2018** The Japanese fresh fruit market is estimated at around 4.71 million MT demanded as of 2015.  Currently, Japan imports one third of fresh fruit demanded, approximately 1.6 million MT in 2017, [Japanese Fresh Fruit Market Overview 2018\_Osaka ATO\_Japan\_10-30-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Japanese%20Fresh%20Fruit%20Market%20Overview%202018_Osaka%20ATO_Japan_10-30-2018.pdf)
7. **Morocco Prohibiting Imports of Certain Citrus Plants and Plant Parts** This report contains an unofficial translation of Morocco's regulation prohibiting the import of plant and plant parts, excluding dried leaves, fruits and seeds, belonging to the subfamily Aurantioideae (family Rutaceae). [Prohibiting Imports of Certain Citrus Plants and Plant Parts\_Rabat\_Morocco\_11-4-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Prohibiting%20Imports%20of%20Certain%20Citrus%20Plants%20and%20Plant%20Parts_Rabat_Morocco_11-4-2018.pdf)
8. **Morocco Import Requirements for Certain Species of the Rosaceae family** Morocco's import authorization and phytosanitary requirements for plants and plant parts of certain species of the Rosaceae family, including apples, pears, quinces, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries.  [Import Requirements for Certain Species of the Rosaceae family\_Rabat\_Morocco\_11-4-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Import%20Requirements%20for%20Certain%20Species%20of%20the%20Rosaceae%20family_Rabat_Morocco_11-4-2018.pdf)
9. **Morocco Order on Phytosanitary Inspection for Imported Products** This report contains an unofficial translation of Morocco's Order No. 593-17 on phytosanitary inspection of plants, plant products, and other items, including wood packaging, at import.  [Order on Phytosanitary Inspection for Imported Products\_Rabat\_Morocco\_10-29-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Order%20on%20Phytosanitary%20Inspection%20for%20Imported%20Products_Rabat_Morocco_10-29-2018.pdf)
10. **Taiwan Apples, Fresh Enter a Descriptive Report**  Abundant local fruit harvests drove down fruit prices and reduced demand for apples and other imported fruit in the first half of 2018.  [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Taipei\_Taiwan\_10-30-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Taipei_Taiwan_10-30-2018.pdf)
11. **Vienna Fresh Deciduous Fruit** In Marketing Year 2018/19, apple, pear, and table grape production in the European Union is forecast to be significantly up after low production in the previous year.   [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Vienna\_EU-28\_10-30-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Vienna_EU-28_10-30-2018.pdf)

**Regulatory**

* 1. **Chile and China signed agreements to export fruit**

With the aim of strengthening sanitary diplomacy and deepening bilateral agricultural and technological cooperation, the Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker, and the Chinese Minister of Customs, Ni Yuefeng, signed several agreements in Beijing, within the framework of the Chile Week 2018.

They signed the protocol for China to export dates to Chile, updated the protocols for Chile to export fresh fruit to China by air with transshipment in a third country, and delivered documentation on the next product of interest: citrus. In the last seven years China has opened its doors to different products, such as blueberries, pork meats and by-products, dehydrated plums, walnuts with and without skin, avocados, bovine hides, alpacas and live bovines, and nectarines. Authorities expect China will soon open its doors to pears.

In his presentation, "Cooperation in the agricultural industry between China and Chile", Minister Walker described the situation of Chilean agriculture and said there was an opportunity for investment and mutual cooperation. "Chilean exports of forestry and agricultural products to China between January and September 2018 have grown by 57% when compared to the same period of 2017. Chile has comparative advantages, such as its climate, market openings, stability, and macroeconomic conditions, which make it a perfect place to invest," he said

Minister Walker visited a family in Beijing to deliver a symbolic gift. The gift was made up of forestry and agricultural products that were shipped from Chile to promote them within the framework of the Chile Week that takes place in China between November 1 and 6. The goal of this activity was to make the Chilean products visible on the jd.com portal -the second largest e-commerce in China and one of the largest importers of fruit, wine and seafood from Chile- within the framework of the Singles Day, which begins on January 1.  [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9039533/chile-and-china-signed-agreements-to-export-fruit/)

* 1. **France: Ban on metam sodium-based pesticide**

Last Monday, France’s health safety watchdog Anses ordered a ban on products containing metam sodium, widely used in vegetable farming. The decision came after several people fell ill, indicating the products in question pose a risk to human health and the environment.According to [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-health-metamsodium/france-bans-crop-pesticide-metam-sodium-after-people-fall-ill-idUSKCN1NA24K), France’s largest farm union, the FNSEA, condemned the decision: “The decision to ban metam sodium was taken even before finding an alternative to replace it, leaving farmers without solutions,”

[Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9040266/france-ban-on-metam-sodium-based-pesticide/)

**Business**

* 1. **Bayer CEO says would consider glyphosate settlement depending on costs**

Werner Baumann, CEO of Bayer AG, has indicated that the company might considering settling lawsuits relating to Monsanto’s glyphosate containing weed killers if court costs rise to high but defended the combined group against claims the products cause cancer. He said the group would consider settling if the defence costs become higher than the potential settlement amounts. The comments were made in a session with German media who were visiting the facilities Bayer has acquired from Monsanto in St Louis. The comments come after a case in August, were a San Francisco jury awarded damages of USD289 against the Group for failing to warn a school grounds keeper about the cancer risks posed by Round-Up and Ranger Pro. The award has subsequently been reduced to USD78 million and the company is appealing the findings. Mr Baumann indicated that Bayer had experience in defending products claims and had revised its defence strategy following the integration of Bayer and Monsanto in August.[Full article available here](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bayer-glyphosate-lawsuit/bayer-ceo-says-would-consider-glyphosate-settlement-depending-on-costs-idUSKCN1N70UM)



**Sustainability**

* 1. **Ireland: Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme rolled out**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine, Michael Creed TD, has announced the roll-out of an innovative collaboration between Government and industry delivering 30 new ‘Agricultural Sustainability Advisors’ to work with farmers across the country. These advisors will oversee the implementation of a Programme aimed at encouraging sustainable farming, while meeting stringent water quality requirements on over 5,000 farms nationwide.

This initiative will support a free one-to-one sustainability advisory service to more than 5,000 farmers to encourage behavioral change, facilitate knowledge transfer and achieve better on-farm environmental outcomes.

The Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme (ASSAP) arises from the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. The plan identified that agriculture is a significant pressure in over 50% of waters at risk of not meeting their ecological target of “good” status by 2027.  In accordance with the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy), this Plan sets out a comprehensive programme of measures to enhance the quality of water in Ireland's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater. The objective is to support best farming practice and minimise its impact on water quality. [Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9039685/ireland-sustainability-support-advisory-programme-rolled-out/)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **Detecting E.coli strains using molecular electronics**

Finding a fast and inexpensive way to detect specific strains of bacteria and viruses is critical to food safety, water quality, environmental protection and human health. Recent research has adapted a molecular electronic device called a single-molecule break junction to detect RNA from strains of E. coli known for causing illness. The findings were published last week in the journal Nature Nanotechnology. The technique could pave the way for rapid, straightforward detection of pathogens, antimicrobial resistant bacterial strains and biomarkers for cancer.”

Single-molecule break junction devices consist of two metal electrodes with atomically sharp interfaces that are brought into contact in a liquid solution of interest, such as a solution containing RNA sequences from E.coli. As the electrodes are brought into contact and pulled apart, an electrical bias is applied and the current is measured. This process is repeated hundreds or thousands of times to determine the conductance of a single molecule.

By testing short sequences of RNA bound to DNA with chemical linkers, the team examined an E. coli sequence that would produce Shiga toxin. Their findings showed that changes in the electrical resistance of RNA due to a single-base change could be measured, which would allow them to see not only if a sequence was E.coli, but the specific strain of E.coli that produces Shiga toxin. [Full article available here](http://www.hortidaily.com/article/9039690/detecting-e-coli-strains-using-molecular-electronics/)

* 1. **DogBot an affordable solution to labour deficit?**

React Robotics has come up with a solution to reduce the workforce by as much as 20%. Specialised in robotics, artificial intelligence and enterprise software development, the team came up with the idea of building a robotic dog. We have created a robot on legs, DogBot, which will take the full trays of fruit to a packhouse or waiting trailer. The pickers would place the full tray on a passing robot which would learn the location of the packhouse or trailer. If your robot needs to step over rows it needs legs, so it is ideally suited for the fruit picking terrain.”

Dog Bot will have a 20kg payload capacity which is enough for soft fruit picking but not for apples and pears. The robot is the size of an average dog and it can carry other things such as sensors and tools so could out and do soil sampling etc. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9041071/dogbot-an-affordable-solution-to-labour-deficit/)

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