

**PMAC weekly update 8th to 15th April**

1. **Government agencies**: Fruit fly species stopped at border; ICPR Changes; Last controls on the movement of fruit and vegetables lifted; Cargo facilities can now be fined; Entry to UK in the case of a no deal exit; Wood packaging; Biosecurity sniffer looking for name; WTO Notifications
2. **New Zealand News:**  Appointment of new Ambassador to Japan; Farmers focused on climate change; More water storage needed; Zespri staff move into Mount Maunganui head office; $52m Craigmore apple orchard investment approved; Freshmax appoints Terry Brown as General Manager; Avocado prices have doubled since February; 'Outstanding' apple season blighted by a lack of workers willing to pick them; High-end shoppers seek quality; Ambrosia beetle is a concern for New Zealand avocado sector.
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; Fruit caught up in new US-EU trade spat; UK granted a Brexit extension until 31 October; ASTA applauds international move to streamline phytosanitary system for seed; US: Retailer demands and the Food Safety Modernization Act; Bayer shareholder Deka joins chorus of complaints over Monsanto; Workforce is the single biggest challenge for global horticulture; Insolar accepted into Blockchain in Transport Alliance; Pagoda advances "steady" market strategy; Swiss and Finnish checks detect Listeria; “Veggycation” relaunch teaches us how to love vegetables; The rise of products without pesticide residues; Smart tech ‘can boost yields and limit waste’; oil Association announces Ecocert partnership

***Editors comments***

*Your Editor is off on holiday for 3 weeks and so the next update will be circulated on the 6th May*

*Until then do have a good Easter break and keep warm.*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **Fruit fly species stopped at border**

Biosecurity New Zealand officers have stopped a spotted wing drosophila larvae in a single fruit from a consignment of oranges from the United States (USA) on 8 April during a routine inspection.

The fly is a serious pest that could harm a range of fruit crops in New Zealand. The ministry’s technical experts are assessing the find and any measures that might need to be taken as the fly is not normally associated with citrus. As a precautionary measure, they have put a temporary hold on citrus consignments from the USA. [Find out more about spotted wing drosophila](https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/finding-and-reporting-pests-and-diseases/priority-pests-plant-aquatic/horticultural-pests/spotted-wing-drosophila/)

* 1. **ICPR changes**

The ICPR for Papua New Guinea has had changes to the [requirements for Allium cepa (onions) .](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/676)

* 1. **Last controls on the movement of fruit and vegetables lifted**

Controls on the movement of fruit and vegetables in the Auckland north shore suburb of Northcote have been lifted, with no further Queensland fruit flies being detected. The decision follows weeks of intensive trapping and inspections of hundreds of kilograms of fruit. The last Queensland fruit fly detection in Northcote was on 14 March which led to an increase in the on-the-ground operational response.

"With no further finds, we are confident that there are no breeding populations of Queensland fruit fly in the Northcote area, and because of that, the Controlled Area Notices can be lifted today, "says head of Biosecurity New Zealand Roger Smith. "All operational activities, including baiting, have been completed, however, as a precautionary measure, we will be keeping in place an enhanced network of fruit fly traps for an extended period. If fruit flies are present, these traps will detect them."

The Biosecurity New Zealand signage and wheelie bins will be removed from Northcote over the next few days.

Biosecurity New Zealand and the country's horticultural industries would like to sincerely thank the residents and businesses in all of the affected suburbs. [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/fruit-fly-in-auckland-situation-update-12-april-2019/)

* 1. **Cargo facilities can now be fined**

From today (15 April), Biosecurity New Zealand officers can issue infringement notices ( resulting oin a fine) to transitional and containment facilities for actions that could allow invasive pests and diseases into New Zealand.

"One area MPI will be paying particular attention to is the movement of uncleared goods, including sea containers, without correct authorisation. This type of non-compliance poses a critical risk to biosecurity. "The infringement fee for each offence is $400 for an individual and $800 for a corporation. [Find out more](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/facility-infringement-offences/) [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/cargo-facilities-can-now-be-fined/)

* 1. **Entry to UK in the case of a no deal exit.**

The terms under which the UK will exit the EU continue to be unclear and the prospect of a no deal Brexit remains one of a number of possible outcomes. To assist exporters trading over this period, this FYI sets out the regulatory arrangements for the export of plants, plant products, wine and organic products that have been agreed with the UK in the event that a no deal Brexit occurs.

* [F10/19 Exporting plants, plant products, wine and organic products to the UK following a no deal Brexit](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33738)
  1. **Wood packaging**

MPI has revised its wood packaging page . See [Wood packaging for exports](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/forest-products/wood-packaging/) Got feedback? Email [info@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:info@mpi.govt.nz) Or use our [onsite feedback form](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/feedback-form/)

* 1. **Biosecurity sniffer looking for name**

Biosecurity New Zealand is looking for help from the public to name one of its new detector puppies.

Specially bred to sniff out fruit and other unwanted biosecurity items carried by international passengers at airports and ports, the male beagle was born to work dogs Gale and Gina on 5 March, along with 6 siblings.   The public has until 19 April to send in their name suggestions through our Facebook page. [Detector dog page – Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MPIDetectorDogs)

Along with name suggestions, Biosecurity New Zealand is looking for volunteer foster families in Auckland and Hamilton to help the detector puppies get used to dealing with the public before they begin their formal training. [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/biosecurity-sniffer-looking-for-name/)

* 1. **WTO Notifications**

Please find attached the most recent WTO notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented please contact [Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country. Changes notified over the last week include:

* UAE , USA and Korea MRL’s
* Australia – requirements for import of tomato and capsicum seeds

The embedded files for the last week (which has links through to the original notifications)is available here 



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Appointment of new Ambassador to Japan**

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters last week announced the appointment of diplomat Hamish Cooper as Ambassador to Japan. “He is fluent in the Japanese language, and has served in Tokyo as Deputy Head of Mission and in Osaka as Consul-General.  He has also served as Ambassador to the Russian Federation and to Turkey, and was the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser in both the current and previous Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/appointment-new-ambassador-japan)

** Commentary**

* 1. **Farmers focused on climate change**

New survey research, released last week shows farmers are focused on sustainability and the impacts of climate change more than ever. The survey, show that 92% of farmers are focused on making their farm more environmentally sustainable, up from 78% in the last survey of 2009

The full report is available on the [MPI website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/sustainable-land-management-and-climate-change-research-programme/). [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/farmers-focused-on-climate-change-ministers?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=7d8f905603-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_26_March_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-7d8f905603-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_26_March_2019_COPY_01))

* 1. **More water storage needed**

The lesson out of the drought this year is that water storage is critical for the prosperity of New Zealand pastoral farms or fruit and vegetable businesses, says Horticulture NZ chief executive Mike Chapman. The trucking of water to the Waimea Plains this summer is a prime example, he told *Rural News*. “The Waimea dam is now in progress, but that will take two or three years, perhaps four,” he said. “We should be looking at water storage across the country -- small and big schemes. We should be enabling our farmers and growers to store water on their farms a lot easier.

“There is a myriad of resource consents and engineers’ reports to go through to get your storage in place and as a country the one thing we have lots of is water. [But] we don’t capture it when we can to use when we haven’t got it coming. “We need to be a lot smarter.” Some people are concerned that storage might have environmentally bad outcomes, he says. “But water storage enables you to have healthy rivers and healthy food; it enables streams and rivers to keep reasonable flow during dry periods.

Chapman says we need to emphasise the message of feeding NZ. “We export a lot of our fruit -- about two thirds -- but we don’t export many vegetables. “We grow for NZ and we need to have land and water to grow for NZ.  [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/more-water-storage-needed-hortnz?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=7d8f905603-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_26_March_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-7d8f905603-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_26_March_2019_COPY_01))



* 1. **Zespri staff move into Mount Maunganui head office**

Last week, Zespri staff moved into the company's new head office in Mount Maunganui. This marked the completion of the first phase of the new office redevelopment. The new three-level office next to Zespri's former headquarters on Maunganui Rd can accommodate 340 staff. Fellow industry organisations such as New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers (NZKGI) and Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) which each had ground floor offices in the new building. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9091458/new-zealand-zespri-staff-move-into-mount-maunganui-head-office/)

* 1. **52m Craigmore apple orchard investment approved**

Foreign investors headed by New Zealand management have been given the green light by the Overseas Investment Office to buy two horticultural properties. Only last year, these same parties were rebuffed over a bid to buy a kiwifruit and avocado orchard. Craigmore Sustainables has received permission to buy 479 hectares of sensitive land, inland of Waipukurau in Hawke's Bay and 59 ha near Gisborne. They will invest $52 million to develop apple orchards on the properties.

"The difference between these and the earlier application is that these are developments - a conversion from one land use to another. They are regarded as economically and socially more sustainable." Altogether the investments in the two properties is expected to create 100 jobs and boost exports by $30m.. . Craigmore intends to convert 130 ha of the land used for barley and maize into an apple orchard. [Full article available here](New%20Zealand:%20$52m%20Craigmore%20apple%20orchard%20investment%20approved)

The new orchard is expected to be in full production by mid-2020 and is set to have 73 full time employees when it is fully operational.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9092843/new-zealand-seventy-new-jobs-for-central-hawke-s-bay/)

* 1. **Freshmax appoints Terry Brown as General Manager**

Freshmax New Zealand is pleased to announce the appointment of long standing team member, Terry Brown, to the newly created role of General Manager - Business Development.

In this capacity, Brown will lead in identifying opportunities for expansion across the Freshmax New Zealand business. Working with the wider Freshmax Group, Brown will drive the development of a national category strategy, supporting strategic group supply initiatives, and driving the growth of key accounts and retail partners. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9092466/freshmax-appoints-terry-brown-as-general-manager/)

* 1. **Avocado prices have doubled since February**

Higher prices for avocados, tomatoes, bacon, eggs and bread last month have really hit home, Statistics New Zealand said in a statement today. Avocados alone have more than doubled in price when compared with February 2019's price tag. The price of tomatoes also soared last month, with an average cost of $5.20 a kilo in March - 44% higher than February 2019, and 12% more than the same time last year. The cost of fruit, too, rose 5.5% in March - an increase of 2.7% in the year to March 2019. Overall, food prices rose 0.5% last month. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9092873/new-zealand-avocado-prices-have-doubled-since-february/)

* 1. **'Outstanding' apple season blighted by a lack of workers willing to pick them**

Chair of the Motueka Fruit Growers Association Simon Easton reported he has been struggling with pickers this season, despite being an RSE orchard commenting they generally they come for a few weeks and then leave. He also noted the RSE programme is terrific, but there's a cap on how many can be allocated. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/111820040/outstanding-apple-season-blighted-by-a-lack-of-workers-willing-to-pick-themhttps:/www.stuff.co.nz/business/111820040/outstanding-apple-season-blighted-by-a-lack-of-workers-willing-to-pick-them)

* 1. **High-end shoppers seek quality**

Top-end Chinese supermarkets are using virtual stores to better understand their customers’ shopping habits, both on and off line. Premium shopping experiences have been limited to online stores but more online outlets are introducing physical shopping option. For Shanghai and Beijing based chain City Shop, they have added an online offering since its acquisition by Fruitday, an online fruit specialist, in 2017.

In the produce section Zespri kiwifruit has locked in 12-month shelf space for a fruit that claims topspot for both volume and value. The chain’s customers are typically well educated, time-short and happy to pay a premium on prepared, convenient products sourced from high-quality suppliers .It has recently started stocking airfreighted Bostock organic apples selling for 12 yuan (approx. NZ$2.59) each, alongside snack-sized Rockit apples. With almost 500,000 Chinese visiting NZ every year this country has earned a good reputation among City Shop’s high-end customers, many who have been or aspire to visit NZ. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/high-end-shoppers-seek-quality)

 **Biosecurity**

* 1. **Ambrosia beetle is a concern for New Zealand avocado sector**

The avocado industry is on alert to understand more about the wood-boring granulate ambrosia beetle found in Auckland,. The beetles are fungus farmers. Although the fungi isolated to date from Auckland has not been identified as a major concern to tree health, the avocado industry remains on alert to understand more about this beetle and its ability to vector more serious pathogenic fungi.”

While avocado is the main crop affected by a beetle pest found in Auckland, it could also impact other broadleaf crops such as stone fruit. The wood-boring granulate ambrosia beetle has been located in Blockhouse Bay, Kumeu, Riverhead and Titirangi and tends to mainly affect weak or diseased trees.”

The beetles transmit the fungi into tunnels that they excavate and in doing so leave tell-tale noodle-like sawdust protrusions. [Full article available here](http://www.freshplaza.com/article/9091016/ambrosia-beetle-is-a-concern-for-new-zealand-avocado-sector/)



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. **Ecuador Annual Country Report** This report reflects restructuring of Ministries in Ecuador which has changed competent authorities in some cases. Hyperlinks to ministries, agencies, and legal documents are provided throughout this updated repo...[Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Quito\_Ecuador\_12-21-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Quito_Ecuador_12-21-2018.pdf)
2. **France Annual Country Report**  
   [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Paris\_France\_20-03-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Paris_France_20-03-2019.pdf)
3. **Malaysia Export Certificate Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Kuala Lumpur\_Malaysia\_3-26-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Kuala%20Lumpur_Malaysia_3-26-2019.pdf)
4. **Peru Annual Country Report** This report outlines Peru’s regulatory requirements for food and agricultural product imports. [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Lima\_Peru\_3-22-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Lima_Peru_3-22-2019.pdf)
5. **Saudi Arabia Export Certificate Report**.  Saudi Arabia’s voluntary Front of Pack Nutritional Labeling (FoPNL) requirement is expected to become mandatory in 2021, and threatens most packaged food trade with Saudi Arabia.  Saudi Arabia is also implementing biodegradable packaging requirements that are widely regarded as unworkable, threaten most non-commodity trade, and are currently being reviewed.  [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Riyadh\_Saudi Arabia\_4-3-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Riyadh_Saudi%20Arabia_4-3-2019.pdf)
6. **Saudi Arabia Export Certificate Report**[Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report\_Riyadh\_Saudi Arabia\_4-4-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Report_Riyadh_Saudi%20Arabia_4-4-2019.pdf)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **Fruit caught up in new US-EU trade spat**

Fresh fruit including oranges and lemons are on a list of European products threatened with tariffs in an escalating trade dispute between the US and Brussels over subsidies received by aircraft maker Airbus. The Trump administration said last week that it was considering imposing US$11.2bn worth of tariffs on a raft of products. The office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) at the World Trade Organization said it has repeatedly found that European subsidies to Airbus have affected the US adversely. The row has been simmering for more than 14 years, with Washington and Brussels accusing each other of unfairly subsidising Boeing and Airbus respectively.

The proposed tariffs, which would come on top of existing tariffs on European steel and aluminium imports, come at a sensitive time for the EU, which is preparing for elections to the European Parliament next month and is at the height of Brexit negotiations. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/178410/fruit-caught-up-in-new-us-eu-trade-spat)

* 1. **UK granted a Brexit extension until 31 October**

European Union leaders have granted the UK a six-month extension to Brexit, after late-night talks in Brussels. According to the [BBC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47889404) the European Council President Donald Tusk said his "message to British friends" was "please do not waste this time". Theresa May, who had wanted a shorter delay, said the UK would still aim to leave the EU as soon as possible.

The UK must now hold European elections in May, or leave on 1 June without a deal. The EU has ruled out any renegotiation of the withdrawal agreement. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9093079/uk-granted-a-brexit-extension-until-31-october/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **ASTA applauds international move to streamline phytosanitary system for seed**

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) welcomes the decision by the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) to develop a Systems Approach for seed as an Annex to [ISPM 38](https://www.betterseed.org/long-awaited-international-seed-standard-is-good-news-for-u-s-seed-industry/) on the International Movement of Seed. The decision was made recently during the CPM meeting in Rome, Italy. “The international adoption of a systems approach would offer a long-term, sustainable solution for the movement of safe, quality seed around the globe,” View the full language [here](https://www.betterseed.org/wp-content/uploads/Annex-1-Proposal-Seed-Systems-Approach_Final.pdf).

[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9091874/asta-applauds-international-move-to-streamline-phytosanitary-system-for-seed/)

* 1. **US: Retailer demands and the Food Safety Modernization Act**

A new USDA report represents a first look at this part of the produce supply chain. Using information from interviews with nine diverse retailers prior to the 2018 implementation of the FSMA Produce Rule, it focuses on the role of retailers in the development and implementation of food safety standards for produce. It covers the food safety requirements imposed by retailers on their produce suppliers, how the requirements evolved, if the requirements will change when the PR is implemented, and whether retailers will demand more than the PR requires. [Click here to download the report.](https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=92760) [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9090299/us-retailer-demands-and-the-food-safety-modernization-act/)

* 1. **Bayer shareholder Deka joins chorus of complaints over Monsanto**

One of Bayer’s largest shareholders tore into the company’s management on Wednesday for underestimating the legal risks of its takeover of Monsanto, setting the stage for a fiery annual general meeting after a 30 percent plunge in the shares. “It’s quite drastic when a takeover triggers such value destruction and reputational damage so quickly. There can be no talk of a successful takeover any more,” Ingo Speich, the head of sustainability and corporate governance at Deka Investment, told Reuters. He will be among the shareholders to speak at the April 26 annual general meeting (AGM).[Read more at Reuters (Patricia Weiss, Ludwig Burger)](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bayer-shareholder/bayer-shareholder-deka-joins-chorus-of-complaints-over-monsanto-idUSKCN1RM1W2) [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9093068/bayer-shareholder-deka-joins-chorus-of-complaints-over-monsanto/)

* 1. **Workforce is the single biggest challenge for global horticulture**

Addressing AHDB’s SmartHort conference, NFU Sector Board Chair and apple producer, Ali Capper, made it clear that UK horticulture is not alone in its challenge to access labour. “Just employ local people,” said Ali. “The amount of times that is said, but it fails to recognise that labour is not a UK-centric problem, it’s a global issue.“

“Germany is home to 81 million people and they have more than 1.2 million vacancies, the country’s federal labour office estimates that they’ll need 12 million new workers in the next 30 years, so for 2019 they have been able to access 60,000 seasonal workers to support demand.“  “Australia, New Zealand, South Korea all have seasonal worker schemes in place. Everyone else in the world is facing the same problems as we are – could robotics developed in AHDB’s Automation Challenge form part of the future solution.”

Labour has been reported to account for up to 70 per cent of variable production costs in some areas of UK horticulture now. Reduced access to workforce could in turn see productivity levels fall at a time when consumer demand for plant based products is at its highest. Growers are actively seeking solutions. *The balance of the article talks about a number of “robotic innovations*” [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9087275/workforce-is-the-single-biggest-challenge-for-global-horticulture/)

* 1. **Insolar accepted into Blockchain in Transport Alliance**

Insolar has been accepted into the Blockchain in Transport Alliance (BiTA), an organization which aims to drive standards and enable blockchain adoption. BiTA members are entities from the spheres of transportation, logistics, supply chain, freight, technology, and blockchain. Other members include shipping industry giants such as Daimler, FedEx, UPS and Panalpina, in addition to other leading global tech firms that provide systems and IT for supply chains, such as Microsoft, SAP and Google.

Some of the projects associated with BiTA include the supply-chain-as-a-service platform, bill of lading via blockchain, and blockchain-based biofuel supply chain tracking for the maritime industry, in addition to the creation of standards for shipment tracking using blockchain. Insolar will enter the Alliance to head a working group on data regulation in blockchain.

BiTA is creating standards with the intention of creating a common framework that can assist industry participants with their organization’s decision to develop and adopt blockchain-based technologies. Members of the alliance are creating a forum to develop a dialogue around blockchain in transportation. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9091644/insolar-accepted-into-blockchain-in-transport-alliance/)

 **China**

* 1. **Pagoda advances "steady" market strategy**

Pagoda is a large-scale fruit chain store that specializes in the integration of bulk purchase of fruit in production areas, keeping fruit fresh after harvest, storing and distributing fruit, and fruit retail in stores. Pagoda has rapidly expanded the number of fruit stores throughout China. The distribution strategy of Pagoda is not just excellently suited to satisfy the varied demands of different markets in various regions, but also encourages alliances in the fruit industry that integrate the resources of a large number of communities. Pagoda CEO Xu Yanlin recently spoke in an interview with FreshPlaza about Pagoda's future development.

"China's annual import volume of fruit grows every year because Chinese consumers become increasingly aware of the health benefits of fruit and the overall demand for top-quality fruit therefore increases. At the same time, the domestic fruit industry in China continues to improve. The Chinese fruit industry makes great advances in such fields as plantation technology or the penetration of various last-stage markets. The quality greatly improved in recent years. As for Pagoda, we develop the management of import fruit and domestic fruit at the same speed. The actual retail ratio depends on market demand, of course. In general, however, import fruit accounted for around 47%-50% of our overall fruit sales in recent years. We expect the sales ratio of imported fruit to continue to fluctuate around this norm in the next few years."

"One of our main goals is to better satisfy the varied demands from different regional markets. In order to reach this goal, Pagoda will continue to expand the distribution of stores throughout cities in China to provide optimum coverage. It plans to open around 1,000 stores in the cities and areas where it already has stores on the ground. The main force of this expansion is still focused on first- and second-tier cities, to further intensify and flesh out our current distribution network, but at the same time, it also wishes to speed up the vertical penetration of markets in third- and fourth-tier cities. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9092247/pagoda-advances-steady-market-strategy/)

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Swiss and Finnish checks detect Listeria**

Independent testing in Finland and Switzerland of a variety of products detected Listeria monocytogenes last year. However, no samples contained the pathogen at levels above legal limits.

The Finland customs authority detected Listeria monocytogenes in imported frozen fruits, berries and vegetables. In Switzerland, the bacteria was found in some ready to eat foods. The Customs Laboratory examined 78 lots of frozen fruit and detected Listeria in eight of them but levels were not above the regulatory limit.

As limits were not exceeded, the customs authority did not prohibit the import or placing on the market of frozen fruit. However, they issued a notice to importers about the presence of Listeria. Intensified checks for Listeria in frozen fruit will be done this year.

In frozen vegetables, they detected Listeria in 18 batches of 80 items studied. However, concentrations remained below the maximum level of less than 100 colony forming units per gram set by European regulation. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9089372/swiss-and-finnish-checks-detect-listeria/)

* 1. “**Veggycation” relaunch teaches us how to love vegetables**

Eating the right amount of vegetables each day will not only support your overall health and wellbeing, it can also help improve your vision, speed up your metabolism and keep your mind active. The nutrition, origins, health benefits and even cooking and storage tips for more than 80 vegetables have been showcased through the newly relaunched Veggycation website in Australia, an online educational tool designed for growers and educators. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9091383/veggycation-relaunch-teaches-us-how-to-love-vegetables/)



* 1. **The rise of products without pesticide residues**

In recent years, products without pesticide residues have appeared on supermarket shelves. This alternative between organic and conventional products has been on an upward trend lately.

In 2019, Bonduelle launched its first line of  lettuce and canned corn without pesticide residues. In order to replace phytosanitary treatments, farmers use alternative techniques such as mechanical or animal weeding, strip plowing, biocontrol (insects, birds, essential oils, pheromones…), or even insect nets, bird traps, planted hedgerows and tree cutting for fruit trees. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9090682/the-rise-of-products-without-pesticide-residues/)

* 1. **Smart tech ‘can boost yields and limit waste’**

Standardised data measurement can help maximise yields and reduce food waste, field trials have revealed. Trials on potatoes in the UK have shown how the use of smart technology, combined with training and greater supply chain collaboration, can help maximise crop yields.  The work also highlighted how early intervention can help prevent produce falling outside of specifications – one of the most significant causes of crop rejection in primary production.

The trials helped to increase yields by providing growers with critical information on the development of crops earlier than normal, this was achieved through greater monitoring and measurement throughout the season.  Dedicated training was provided prior to planting on best practice in crop management techniques, and collaborative support was given throughout the trials.  Growers were also instructed in the use of the Potato Yield Model, developed by NIAB, to give key yield data as early as possible. This smart technology allows farmers to forecast the total and graded potato yields ahead of harvest.  Early insight helped inform decisions around supply and demand for both the farmer and supply chain, and guide decisions around key actions such as when to stop the crop growing.  [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/fpj/article/178388/smart-tech-can-boost-yields-and-limit-waste)

* 1. **Soil Association announces Ecocert partnership**

The Soil Association has formally partnered with French organic certifiers Ecocert to help drive organic farming practises worldwide. The partnership will widen the range of growers around the world who can use the Soil Association label, while British growers will be able to enjoy access to Ecocert’s certification accreditation for exports to countries such as USA, Japan, and Korea.

According to the Soil Association, Ecocert clients in more than 130 countries will now be able to access the Soil Association symbol by meeting Soil Association’s higher standards, with Ecocert providing the audit.

The new partnership will also aim to develop the marketing and delivery of integrity-based schemes and services focused around three key areas of organic food and farming, land use and sustainability.

The pair, who have worked together before in international organic groupings such as IFOAM, will announce further developments in the partnership in the coming months. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/fpj/article/178398/soil-association-announces-ecocert-partnership)

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