

March 24, 2009



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To: Kim Krner

Zutano Pollen Field Research

Grove Management, Inc.

Bello Kim, as mentioned, I have at least 4 grove sites in Temecula plus Laguna Valley. Each will have one acre to blow on Pollen, and ~~one~~ one acre of no pollen. Each acre will be separated by at least ten tree rows, and avoid wind drift to the check block (no pollen).

We'll apply only on days warm enough that the flowers are female at least by 11:00 am (this would probably require previous day temperature of 75° or over, and night temp over 55°. Day temp probably needs to be 80°, but we'll check for morning female flowers before spraying.

Hope you have two sites in the Ventura area. I've started flagging boundaries.

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June 1, 2010

LF F Grove Management, Inc.

Harvests and Pollen

Fruit Prices and Size: For the last month the only practical pick has been for 8 ounce and larger avocados. The more fruit a tree carries, the slower the fruit grows. This is compounded by cool weather. The fruit is there, but its growth is a lot slower than in a normal spring. Fruit that were 6 ounce in February are only 7 ounce in May!

Why are 8 ounce fruit so special? It is the size of choice by the supermarkets. Their ads are almost always for 8 ounce Hass. When 7 ounce are promoted their ads are 2 for 99¢ or less.

We have not been doing 7 ounce size picks because they will soon be 8 ounce. Right now, 8 ounce fruit returns are 90¢ a pound before picking charges: 7 ounce fruit are only 62¢, 6 ounce are a horrible 45¢ a pound.

We are picking 8 ounce fruit because the price is reasonable for a large crop. Also, picking the 8 ounce and larger fruit leaves more carbohydrates for the smaller fruit to grow.

Zutano Pollen Improves Hass Production.

The California Avocado Society decided to do a research project that the California Avocado Commission did not fund. There are a couple of companies that actually harvest Zutano avocado flowers and preserve the pollen from them. I had worked with blowing on Zutano pollen before, so I volunteered to do a well replicated, scientifically valid research trial in 2009. Four of the five one-acre test plots have been harvested. You are the first to read the results. As you know, avocado production is highly variable from tree to tree and grove to grove. If a test is consistent in more than 70% of the trials, the results are valid. If results are 100% the same direction, the test is absolutely valid.

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Production Results
(blocks of each site are of equal size)

	<u>Zutano Pollen</u>	<u>No Pollen</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Site 1	22 bins	16 bins	37.5%
Site 2	23 bins	19 bins	21%
Site 3	6 bins	5 bins	20%
Site 4	8 bins	5.5 bins	<u>45%</u>
	Average Yield Increase		30.8%

We are applying Zutano pollen to the groves that have been sprayed in prior years. These results are a little too late to help treat additional groves as our bloom is 90% over. A Zutano pollen treatment costs \$130-140 per acre. We'll be more pro-active and timely next year.

Always yours,



Len Francis

Dec. 15, 2010



Grove Management, Inc.

Happy Holidays Kair

Thank you for working with me. Matt Handel did not, could not be said, do actual harvest of his pollination trial in Ventura Co. He did a fruit count that showed $\pm 20\%$ increase.

I wrote a summary of results to the California Avocado Society. My tests (4)

averaged over a 25% increase. The lowest increase was 25%. It works. It is best to have an average temp. of 70% (a 60° night, an 80° high for the next day.

Always,
Len