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### Hicane Spraying

Now that we have finished this seasons application of Hydrogen Cyanamide products we can reflect on how the season went.

**Weather** - After a good start for the Gold, there was a deterioration at the beginning of August, but fortunately it improved coming into our busiest time with not much spraying time lost to rain. We did however lose a bit of time to wind. We had two full days lost when the wind was just far too strong to even consider taking our machines out of the yard. Not only do we need to get the product to the target area, but there is an increasing need to be seen to be doing the right thing environmentally. Overall, most application was achieved within the preferred timeframes indicated by our clients.

The temperatures during the application period have been slightly lower than in the 2005 season, which has meant slower drying times overall, which hopefully will result in an improved effect from the product compared to some of the results experienced the previous season.

**Orchard Preparation** - Once again, most orchards were well prepared for us with mulching done and water supplies working. We did however have downtime on a couple of orchards because poor mulching resulted in wires being pulled. (Our units all have electronic controls that need those wires) There is also some serious damage to one unit's fan as a result of prunings flicking into where they are not meant to be. We cannot emphasize enough, the need to have mulching done immediately prior to spraying - after any tying down and/or re-cutting in the canopy. Any unmulched prunings on the ground will flick up and get caught in the units under structure and components. With only 100mm ground clearance the potential for problems is significant. Ask yourself how you would feel if your orchard didn't get sprayed because of poor preparation in the orchard prior to yours. The need for a clear orchard floor applies at any time of the year.

**Machinery** - In the main, our sprayer units performed well with only half a day lost by one machine (apart from that mentioned above) due to the electronic failure of a significant component in the control systems.

**Looking Forward** - Now is the time to consider and discuss with us your Kiwifruit Crop Protection programme for the rest of the season. Do you need one or two pre-blossom scale sprays would be the most immediate consideration The Zespri Crop Protection programme should be with you shortly but is now available online at <http://www.zespricanopy.com/n856,170.html>

**This News Sheet** - It is my intention to update this News Sheet on the web regularly, mostly at least monthly, but more often as worthy information is available for inclusion. Each News Sheet will remain available in PDF format from the archive section of this web site. Please bookmark this site so you can find it again easily. <http://www.zcl.zanadu.info/>

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At work under the canopy

*"Any unmulched prunings on the ground will flick up "*

One day after work a man was driving home when he ran over a poor little rabbit. The man immediately jumped out from his car to see how the rabbit was doing. He knew it was dead just by looking at the flattened creature. He felt guilty, and just stared at the poor rabbit.

About three minutes later a lady saw his car stopped in the road, and went over to see what was a matter. The man said " I hit this poor rabbit and I just feel terrible." The plump little lady then went to her car and came back with an object in her hand. She told the man not to worry, and began spraying some sort of liquid on the dead rabbit. The man asked "What are you doing?" The woman replied " I am going to save this rabbit, just watch." About five minutes later the man was thinking to himself "Man, this woman's crazy. I mean the rabbit is as flat a pancake! Why on earth would she claim she could save it" All of the sudden the rabbit rose, looked around, got up and began to hop away. By now the man was amazed. The rabbit then stopped turned around, and waved. Then hopped another four feet, turned around, and waved again. This ritual lasted on until the rabbit was out of sight.

The man, desperate for an explanation, looked at the spray bottle and read " Hair Spray. Brings damaged hair back to life. WARNING MAY CAUSE PERMANENT WAVE."