Rockit 2025 Harvest

Weekly Commentary

March 17, 2025

## Introduction

Picking (harvest) commenced on 11 February 2025 (compared to the 15 February 2024) as of the 17 March 2025, 50,731 bins had been harvested (compared to 32,043 for the same date in 2024). Bins are stored at Te Ipu, Sunfruit and other third party coolstores as detailed in [Table 1](#tbl-binsharvested).

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| Table 1: Bins harvested up to 17 March 2025, by storage location compared to the same date in 2024   | **Season** | **Berl Property Ltd** | **Kirkwood Road** | **Sunfruit Limited** | **T&G East Site (TG)** | **T&G West Site** | **Te Ipu Packhouse (RO)** | **Kiwi crunch (FV)** | **Total** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 2024 | 2,568 | 49 | 2,995 | 295 | 618 | 25,518 | 0 | 32,043 | | 2025 | 3,468 | 849 | 14,963 | 0 | 0 | 31,311 | 140 | 50,731 | | \*Kirkwood is just a gatehouse facility and these bins are only transitional. | | | | | | | | | |

The daily harvest rate is shown in [Figure 1](#fig-harvestRate) where 2025 is compared to the the previous three years’ performance. The harvest commenced five days earlier in 2025 compared to 2024. The daily intake of bins has also been greater in the first 34 days of the 2025 season compared to 2024 with an average bins per day of 1,492 and 1,034 for 2025 and 2024 respectively. This is principally due to the quality of the harvest, specifically colour, size and maturity allowing the picking teams to have a first pick of greater proportion than in previous years.

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| Figure 1: Rate of harvest to 17 March 2025 compared to the same dates for the previous three seasons |

## Packing Performance

Packing commenced on the 14 February 2025 (compared to 19 February 2024).

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| Table 2: Bins tipped by packing site up to Sunday 14th March 2025 and compared to the same date in 2024   | **Packing site** | **2024** | **2025** | | --- | --- | --- | | Te Ipu Packhouse (RO) | 3,838 | 5,551 | | Sunfruit Limited | 0 | 3,768 | | **Total** | **3,838** | **9,319** | |

To date 9,319 bins have been tipped across the Te Ipu and Sunfruit sites. The numbers are detailed in [Table 2](#tbl-binstipped). More than double the bins have been packed in 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This is largely due to the early packing of the Sunfruit facility, but also the improved productivity of the Te Ipu facility.

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| Table 3: Aggregated packouts for packing to 17 March 2025 compared to the same date in 2024   | **Season** | **Packout** | | --- | --- | | 2024 | 78.0% | | 2025 | 85.9% | |

Packout for the first three weeks of packing in 2025 can be calculated at 85.9% (Te Ipu batches only). This compares to 78.0% for the first 31 days of packing in 2024. The packouts for each season are listed in [Table 3](#tbl-packout). The relatively high packouts are expected at the beginning of the season when the fruit is packed immediately without much storage time. As storage time increases the packout will also decrease.

## Packout loss as a function of storage days

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| Figure 2: Packout as a function of storage days for 0 to 26 storage days including seasons 2022 to 2025 |

As storage days increase packout generally decreases. This was, quite dramatically, observed in 2024 where almost immediately packing commenced the packout started falling by almost 0.6% per day. Hitherto in 2025, packout as a function of storage days shows a mean slope of 0.14% per day (i.e. in 2024, packout was falling at more than four times the rate observed in 2025 YTD). 2022 and 2023 data is also presented. The early rate of decline is less than 2024 for 2022 and 2023 (2023 shows a small increase in packout during the early packing). The overall modeled packout is hightest for 2025 compared to the previous three years.

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| Table 4: modeled baseline (zero storage days) and mean packout loss rate, first 26 storage days for season 2022 to 2025   | **Season** | **Zero day Packout** | **Packout loss per day** | | --- | --- | --- | | 2,022 | 84.4% | -0.24% | | 2,023 | 78.3% | 0.15% | | 2,024 | 81.7% | -0.57% | | 2,025 | 86.6% | -0.14% | |

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## Defect profile

The top 15 defects for fruit packed at 17 March 2025. The histogram presented in [Figure 3](#fig-DefectProfile) also includes the the same defects for the same pack dates in 2024. Note that the data only incudes batches run through Te Ipu.

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| Figure 3: Defect profile (top 15 defects) from closed batches from packing to 17 March 2025. The 2024 profile for the same defcets and pack dates is plotted for comparison. |

When contrasting the 2024 and 2025 defect profile, of particular note is the difference between stem tears, punctures and russet, which are all lower than the equivalent period in 2024. Anecdotally the stems are longer and more flexible than in 2024. Undersize, cuts and sunburn are also substantially lower than 2024 which reflectes the growing season and improved fruit handling.

## Phytosanitary Performance

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| Table 5: Phytosanitary performance for packing to 17 March 2025 compared to the same date in 2024   |  | **MPI lots** | | | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Season** | **With interceptions** | **Total** | **% bugged out** | | 2024 | 55 | 193 | 28.5% | | 2025 | 40 | 343 | 11.7% | |

[Table 5](#tbl-phytoSummary) shows the relative phytosanitary performance of MPI lots (these are sub-batches which are individually evaluated for phytosanitary pests and diseases) for the first 31 days of packing in 2025 compared to 2024. As can be observed 40 MPI lots out of 343 lots (11.7%) suffered a phytosanitary pest interception (mainly ALCM). This compares to 28.5% observed for the same dates in 2024. Note the complete absence, to date of Blackspot in 2025. A pest that played a significant role in determining market exclusion in 2024.

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| Figure 4: Total pest interceptions by pest type to 17 March 2025 compared to the same date in 2024 |

The total pest interceptions by pest is give in [Figure 4](#fig-PestInterceptions). Given the number of MPI lots packed to 17 March 2025 compared to 2024. The number of inteceptions is running well below 2024. Of particular note is the complete absence of Blackspot in 2025 compared to 2024. Blackspot became the most prevalent intercepted pest across the 2024 season.

## Fruit size distribution

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| Figure 5: apple size distribution (measured by equatorial diameter) for fruit packed up to 17 March 2025 compared with the same date for the previous three seasons |

Size distribution is generally measured using the equatorial diameter of the apple. The respective distributions for 2022 through 2025 seasons (note these included batches packed up to 17 March for each season) are shown in [Figure 5](#fig-sizeDistribution). Note the close correspondence of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 season (around 57mm) compared to the 2024 season (55mm). Note that the early fruit size will develop and likely increase as the season progresses.