Rockit 2025 Harvest

Weekly Commentary

April 20, 2025

## Introduction

Picking (harvest) commenced on 11 February 2025 (compared to the 15 February 2024) as of the 20 April 2025, 65,206 bins had been harvested (compared to 59,810 for the same date in 2024).

As of the 20 April 2025 the Rockit™ apple harvest has been completed (last harvest date was 04 April 2025). A total of 65,206 bins were harvested in that time, giving an average bins per day of 1,254 in 2025 compared to 965 in 2024. The first pick yield in 2025 is 58.1% compared to 52.3% in 2024.

## Packing Performance

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

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| Table 1: Bins tipped by packing site up to Sunday 20 April 2025 and compared to the same date in 2024   | **Packing site** | **2024** | **2025** | | --- | --- | --- | | Sunfruit Limited | 2,352 | 4,350 | | Te Ipu Packhouse (RO) | 9,151 | 12,114 | | **Total** | **11,503** | **16,464** | |

To date 16,464 bins have been tipped across the Te Ipu and Sunfruit sites. The numbers are detailed in [Table 1](#tbl-binstipped). A More than 43% increase in bins tipped has been observed in 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This is largely due to the early packing at Sunfruit, but also the improved productivity of the Te Ipu facility.

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| Table 2: Aggregated packouts for packing to 20 April 2025 compared to the same date in 2024   | **Season** | **Packout** | | --- | --- | | 2024 | 74.3% | | 2025 | 82.0% | |

Packout for the first 65 days of packing in 2025 can be calculated at 82.0% (Te Ipu batches only). This compares to 74.3% for the same period in 2024. The packouts for each season (across the same date range) are listed in [Table 2](#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 typically also decrease.

## Packout loss as a function of storage days

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| Figure 1: Packout as a function of storage days for 0 to 60 storage days including seasons 2022 to 2025 |
| Table 3: modeled baseline (zero storage days) and mean packout loss rate, first 60 storage days for season 2022 to 2025   | **Season** | **Zero day Packout** | **Packout loss per day** | | --- | --- | --- | | 2022 | 83.6% | -0.17% | | 2023 | 80.6% | -0.13% | | 2024 | 79.3% | -0.38% | | 2025 | 85.0% | -0.21% | |

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 0.38% per day. Hitherto in 2025, packout as a function of storage days shows a mean slope of 0.21% per day (i.e. in 2024, packout was falling at 1.8 times the rate observed in 2025 YTD). 2022 and 2023 data is also presented. The early rate of decline is similar to 2022 and greater than 2023 for the same packing dates.

## Defect profile

The top 15 defects for fruit packed at 20 April 2025. The histogram presented in [Figure 2](#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 2: Defect profile (top 15 defects) from closed batches from packing to 20 April 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. Cuts and sunburn are also significantly lower than 2024 which reflectes the growing season and improved fruit handling. Observed bruising appears to be increasing and is greater than 2024. This will be monitored and analysed further to track the effect of lower pressure on the susceptibility for mechanical damage.

## Phytosanitary Performance

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| Table 4: Phytosanitary performance for packing to 20 April 2025 compared to the same date in 2024   |  | **MPI lots** | | | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Season** | **With interceptions** | **Total** | **% bugged out** | | 2024 | 220 | 495 | 44.4% | | 2025 | 58 | 685 | 8.5% | |

[Table 4](#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 65 days of packing in 2025 compared to 2024. As can be observed 58 MPI lots out of 685 lots (8.5%) suffered a phytosanitary pest interception (ALCM and Long Tailed Mealybug). This compares to 44.4% observed for the same dates in 2024.

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| Figure 3: Total pest interceptions by pest type to 20 April 2025 compared to the same date in 2024 |

The total pest interceptions by pest is give in [Figure 3](#fig-PestInterceptions). Given the number of MPI lots packed to 20 April 2025 compared to 2024. The total 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 4: apple size distribution (measured by equatorial diameter) for fruit packed up to 20 April 2025 compared with the same date for the previous three seasons |
| Table 5: Mean equatorial (mm) by season and percentage change from the previous year   |  | **Diameter** | **YoY change** | | --- | --- | --- | | **Season** | **mm** | **%** | | 2022 | 57.9 |  | | 2023 | 58.4 | 0.9% | | 2024 | 56.2 | -3.8% | | 2025 | 57.9 | 3.0% | |

Size distribution is generally measured using the equatorial diameter of the apple (aligning to the diameter of the tube). The respective distributions for 2022 through 2025 seasons (note these included batches packed up to 20 April for each season) are shown in [Figure 4](#fig-sizeDistribution) and [Table 5](#tbl-sizeDistribution). Note the close correspondence of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 season (around 57mm) compared to the 2024 season (56mm). A 3.8% decrease in diameter was observed be tween 2023 and 2024, compared to a corresponding 3.0% increase from 2024 to YTD 2025. Note that the early fruit size will develop and likely increase as the season progresses.

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| Figure 5: apple size distribution (measured by mass in grams) for fruit packed up to 20 April 2025 compared with the same date for the previous three seasons |
| Table 6: Mean apple mass (grams) by season and percentage change from the previous year   |  | **Mass** | **YoY change** | | --- | --- | --- | | **Season** | **g** | **%** | | 2022 | 84.8 |  | | 2023 | 87.0 | 2.6% | | 2024 | 78.2 | -10.1% | | 2025 | 85.3 | 9.1% | |

Apple size can also be interpreted through observing the mean apple mass for each season. This is shown in [Figure 5](#fig-AppleMass) and [Table 6](#tbl-AppleMass). A similar trend can be seen with diameter however the year-on-year differences are greater. Apple mass includes all of the shape characteristics of the apple (elongation, ovality and apple density) and is a more comprehensive measure of apple size. A 10.1% decrease in apple mass is measured from 2023 to 2024 and A 9.1% increase from 2024 to 2025 (YTD).