

## **SCION AND ROOTSTOCK EVALUATION IN DIFFERENT GROWING REGIONS OF NEW ZEALAND.**

L. Whenuaroa<sup>1</sup>, P. West<sup>1</sup>, D. van der Heijden<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Till<sup>1</sup>, M. van den Heuval<sup>1</sup>, A. Vidiella<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. New Zealand Avocado Industry Limited, Tauranga, New Zealand

<sup>2</sup>. VLU Science, Gisborne, New Zealand

<sup>3</sup>. AVOCO, Te Puna, New Zealand

New Zealand's three main growing regions present unique challenges to the production of avocados. The assessment of cultivars to overcome these challenges is an important part of New Zealand's strategy to increase productivity and reduce irregular bearing. In the mid-2000s several new cultivars were imported by NZ Avocado including fruiting cultivars Carmen and Maluma, and rootstocks Dusa, Bounty and Latas. In addition to imported genetic material, domestic selections have been recently added to evaluations. Cultivars are being evaluated across all three main growing areas in five industry trial blocks and ten semi commercial blocks. In addition to this, the introduction of grower working groups has widened the spread of cultivar evaluation providing additional observations and information on cultivar performance. Assessments include tree health, yield, vigour, flush activity, flower activity, dry matter accumulation and nutrient uptake. Results from the trials are confirming some of the traits observed overseas of the fruiting cultivars, and confirming the superiority of some of the new rootstocks over the traditional rootstocks in replant situations. Trial results are regularly being updated to NZ Avocado's industry website and provide a valuable resource to help growers choose which cultivars suit their specific needs and environment.