

Kiwifruit POINTERS

PART TWO:

**HARVEST BASICS FOR NEW
ORCHARD WORKERS**





HARVEST TIME IS A REALLY IMPORTANT TIME ON THE ORCHARD

A lot of care has been taken to get the fruit to this point. It's been a combination of a year's hard work, so getting things right on harvest day is crucial.

Before you begin work, your employer or the orchard owner needs to make sure the orchard is ready for harvest and it is a safe place to work.



ALWAYS BE ALERT, AND WATCH OUT FOR EQUIPMENT

DURING HARVEST, THERE IS A LOT OF MACHINERY, LIKE TRACTORS, FORKLIFTS AND TRUCKS, MOVING AROUND THE ORCHARD

- Keep your eyes and ears open for equipment and keep away from any moving equipment.
- Avoid using your phone when walking to and from your car or the toilets.
- Forklift, truck, and tractor drivers may not see you, so be cautious, because the machinery is heavy and dangerous.
- If a bin is on the ground, stay away from the tractor when it comes to collect it.
- If bins are being moved with a tractor, make sure the tractor is turned off and not moving when you empty your bag.

HERE'S A FEW MORE SAFETY MEASURES TO FOLLOW:

- **STAY AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU.**
- **KEEP AWAY FROM THE LOAD-OUT AREA IF YOU DON'T NEED TO BE THERE.**
- **SPEAK UP IF YOU SEE PEOPLE OPERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT UNSAFELY, INCLUDING TRAVELING TOO FAST.**
- **REMEMBER, WE ALL WANT TO GET HOME SAFELY AT THE END OF THE WORK DAY.**



HYGIENE IS IMPORTANT

KIWIFRUIT HARVESTING IS DONE BY HAND

- Kiwifruit vines are set up so that the fruit is at a manageable height and you'll be able to reach the fruit easily.
- It's advised that you wash your hands just before you go into the orchard.

YOU ARE GENERALLY REQUIRED TO WEAR GLOVES

- Make sure they are clean and haven't been used for something else. If they are not clean they may contaminate the fruit.
- Take off your gloves when you stop picking or leave the harvest area. Don't wear your gloves when you are eating, smoking, or using the toilet.
- Don't put your gloves on the ground, they may get contaminated with something, like bird droppings.
- If smashed fruit or juice gets on your gloves, replace them immediately, it could stain other fruit.



YOU'LL BE GIVEN A CLEAN PICKING BAG

**PICKING BAGS CAN GET HEAVY WHEN
THEY'RE FULL, SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO
WEAR YOUR BAG THE RIGHT WAY OR
YOU MAY RISK INJURING YOURSELF**

- Adjust the bag correctly so it fits you and is comfortable.
- Always double check to make sure the straps aren't twisted and are snug on your back.
- Make sure the catch works the right way since you'll be using the catch to empty the fruit into the bin.



NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT YOUR GLOVES AND BAG ON, HERE'S HOW TO PICK A KIWIFRUIT

BE SURE TO FOLLOW BEST PRACTICE AND PROTOCOL INSTEAD OF COPYING WHAT OTHER PICKERS MAY BE DOING

YOUR EMPLOYER WILL DEMONSTRATE THE CORRECT METHOD

- Roll the kiwifruit from the fruit stalk, make sure the entire stalk is removed from the fruit.
- It's often best to hold the fruit between your fingers to easily remove it from the stalk.
- If part of the stalk is left on the fruit, it can stab the other fruit.

DON'T PICK IN BUNCHES BY PULLING DOWN A HANDFUL OF FRUIT BECAUSE IT COULD RESULT IN BRUISED FRUIT WITH STALKS STILL ATTACHED



NEXT, PLACE THE KIWIFRUIT IN YOUR PICKING BAG

**WHEN YOU'VE PICKED THE KIWIFRUIT,
GENTLY PLACE IT IN THE BAG, MAKING
SURE YOU DON'T DROP IT IN.**

**KEEP PICKING UNTIL THE FRUIT IS LEVEL
WITH THE TOP OF YOUR BAG, BEING
CAREFUL NOT TO OVERFILL IT. HANDLE IT
ALL CAREFULLY.**

- You can pick fast, but make sure you handle it carefully so it doesn't get damaged or dropped on the ground.

**NEVER PICK UP DROPPED KIWIFRUIT
FROM THE ORCHARD FLOOR.**

- Fruit that has dropped to the ground could be contaminated and will also be bruised.



THERE WILL BE SOME FRUIT THE GROWERS DON'T WANT US TO PICK

IF GOLD3 FRUIT IS ALREADY REALLY RIPE ON THE VINE IT CAN GET SQUASHED OR EXPLODE IN THE PICKING BAG OR BIN.

- If an overripe fruit falls into your picking bag, immediately pull it out of the bag and put it on the ground. If it explodes in the bag, remove any fruit the juice has spread to.

YOUR SUPERVISOR WILL TELL YOU ABOUT THESE AS WELL AS ANY OTHER FRUIT SIZES HE/SHE WANTS YOU TO AVOID PICKING.

IF YOU PICK ANY FRUIT WITH BIRD POO, DROP IT TO THE GROUND, DON'T PUT IT IN YOUR BAG.



GENTLY EMPTY YOUR BAG INTO THE HARVEST BIN

ONCE YOUR BAG IS FULL, HEAD OVER TO THE BIN.

- If bins are being moved with a tractor, make sure the tractor is turned off and not moving before you head over to the bin.
- Try to remove any leaves that may have dropped into the bag.
- The harvest bins have already been inspected, sanitised and cleaned so if you see anything in the bin that shouldn't be there, take it out before emptying your bag.
- Being careful, lift the bag over the side of the bin with the bottom of the bag as close as possible to the surface of the bin. Then, carefully release the catch on the bag so the fruit gently rolls into the bin.
- There should be someone at the bins to make sure they are not overfilled.



A FEW OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER...

ANIMALS CAN CARRY DISEASES AND POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATE THE FRUIT AND SHOULD NOT BE ON AN ORCHARD DURING HARVEST

- If you have any open cuts or wounds, they need to be covered with a waterproof bandage. If you have illness symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, or a fever, you are not allowed to handle the fruit.

THIS JOB CAN BE PHYSICALLY DEMANDING SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE AS FIT AS POSSIBLE BEFORE YOU START WORK

- Regular breaks and stretching will also help make sure you stay in good shape.



Kiwi's POINTERS

**NOW YOU'RE READY TO
START YOUR JOB!**

Just remember to let your supervisor know immediately if you have any concerns through the harvest process. Don't wait until the job is finished to tell them. It's up to us to work together to keep these orchards healthy, making sure no one gets hurt and we go home safe at the end of the work day.

