

## Soil moisture

A continuation from last season... where's the rain!

We are heading towards the tail end of the soil moisture monitoring season.

Its dry and we are well below our expected rainfall for the season. Please keep in mind some post-harvest irrigation (if you haven't already) for those thirsty trees before they drop their leaves.

Many heavy and medium soils begun the growing season without the lower part of the profile being recharged. The dry at the end of the previous season and lack of winter rainfall being responsible for this.

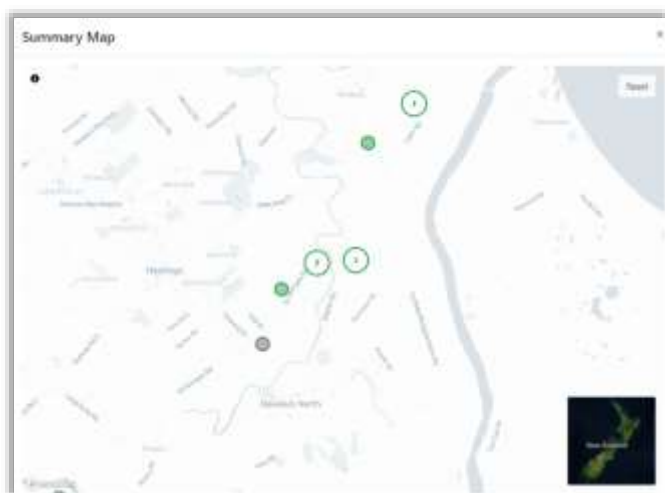
Significant rainfall in early November assisted covering tree requirements but did little to replenish the lower soil profile. The season continued with sporadic, below average rainfall, with a couple of useful events in February and March.

Irrigation became increasingly important by early December to maintain soil moisture in the upper profile and meet tree requirements. Without the moisture in the 'backup tank' of the lower soil profile un-irrigated trees began showing signs of water stress early with associated slowing of fruit sizing. For the most part consistent irrigations continued throughout the season, replenishing the upper profile and sustaining tree and fruit production, although often pushing resource consents to the limit!

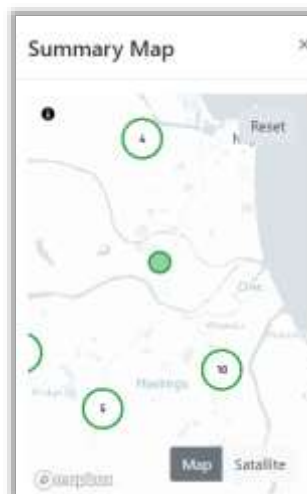


Figure 1A site struggling to keep up with tree requirements beginning irrigating too late into the season

A few changes on the way with the irrigation reports. Firstly the traffic light mapping function returns with enhanced functionality on all devices and gives a fantastic overview of sectors. Secondly some rejigging of the graph layout which we will get begin getting feedback from you in the coming months



Desktop view



Mobile phone view