

# November 2018 PIT Group Report – Project PS17002

## **Pistachio Information and Technology Groups.** **PISTACHIO NUTRITION, SANITATION and PEST & DISEASE PRESENTATIONS and FIELD WALK**

### **November 2018 - Meeting Dates and Venues**

This round of PIT Group meetings is an update on nutrition management and budgeting for your orchard, a pest and disease update and resultant sanitation and biosecurity needs. The Pistachio Industry's new researcher, Dr Subhashini Abeysinghe will also present a research update.

#### **Paringa: Tuesday 20th of November, 12 Noon sharp**

Address: **Martin Simpfendorfer's property**, Permedah Fruits,  
21731 Sturt Highway, Parings, South Australia, 5340

#### **Lake Powell: Wednesday 21st of November, 12 Noon sharp**

Address: **Peter Holt's property**, 76 Zara Lane,  
Lake Powell, Victoria, 3597

#### **TOPICS (for both meetings):**

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|---|-------------------|
| • Pistachio nutrition/ nutrition budgeting/ foliar nutrition/ K | Ben Thomas        |
| • Pistachio pests and beneficials (almond pests highlighted)    | Stuart Pettigrew  |
| • Orchard sanitation/biosecurity                                | Brett Rosenzweig  |
| • Pistachio Research Update                                     | Dr Abeysinghe     |
| • Polymer temperature trials ( <i>Paringa only</i> )            | Dr Shane Phillips |

The 2018 Spring Sessions of the PGAI PIT Group program was well attended in the two locations it was held. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November there were 23 growers and presenters at Martin Simpfendorfer's property, Permedah Fruits, just outside of Paringa in South Australia. Dr. Ben Thomas gave a detailed talk on nutrition for pistachio trees for the Spring season with a particular emphasis on budgeting for the correct nutrition at the correct time with a focus on potassium application with respect to tree uptake and use. Stuart Pettigrew reported on the latest findings from project PS16000 with respect to insect pests and beneficials found in pistachio orchards involved. Essentially – at the moment – very few damaging pests found but very high levels of beneficial insects. Stuart is working in conjunction with the Almond industry which have a project looking at Carpophilus beetle and Carob Moth. Stuart's talk was the perfect segue into Brett Rosenzweig's discussion on the need for orchard sanitation particularly with respect to the problems the almond industry has encountered beginning with the 2013/4 season with Carpophilus beetle and Carob Moth. Insects that were not a problem prior to the 2010/11 wet season. New Pistachio Industry Researcher Dr. Subha Abeysinghe delivered a talk on her proposed research program, developed in conjunction with the Pistachio R&D Committee and identified grower requirements for ongoing/increasing healthy yields and tree health. An extra speaker just for the Paringa meeting was Dr. Shane Phillips from Landmark who talked on the introductory trial on the use of polymer technology to increase chill in Pistachio orchards. Shane has found that the use of spray applied polymer technology can increase chill portions in the trees ensuring the 59 chill portions required can be reached ensuring good crop set. This trial is likely to continue. Following the presentations there was a lengthy field walk looking at crop set, Dr Phillip's polymer trial, tree health and nutrition status in the Permedah pistachio orchards.

The Lake Powell meeting at Peter Holt's property had 15 growers and presenters and followed the same format as the Paringa meeting except for Dr Phillips presentation. Again, a field walk and drive between Peter's orchards looked at nutrition, pruning, male tree density and general orchard health for young trees. Both PIT Group meetings were started with a BBQ.

## Pictures.



Dr Ben Thomas presenting on Spring nutrition budgeting and management for Pistachio trees to the South Australian growers at the Paringa PIT Group meeting.



Dr Shane Phillips (Landmark) discussing the findings from the spay applied polymer temperature trials at Permedah Fruits pistachio orchard at Paringa in South Australia.



Dr Ben Thomas, delivering his nutrition budgeting talk to the Victorian pistachio growers at Peter Holt's property at Lake Powell.



Peter Holt explain his modified central leader pruning on his young orchard at Lake Powell.