

Pistachio Information and Technology Groups.
SPRING SESSIONS

**PISTACHIO BRANCH/SHOOT DIEBACK AND R&D
UPDATE.**

NOTE: There WILL be COVID-19 Requirements

November 2021 - Meeting Dates and Venues

This round of PIT Group meetings is an update and information Q&A session on Pistachio Branch Dieback. We will look at answers to the grower survey and possible research pathways. The Pistachio Industry's new researcher, Dr Maha Mahadevan will also present a research update.

Paringa: Tuesday 2nd of November, 12 Noon sharp

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

Kyalite: Wednesday 3rd of November, 12 Noon sharp

Address: **Kyalite Pistachios/Kyalite Pub**, 99 Kyalite Road, Kyalite NSW 2715
Starting at the Kyalite Pub at noon, and then moving to the Kyalite
Orchard.

TOPICS (for both meetings):

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| • Pistachio Branch/Shoot Dieback | Dr Maha Mahadevan |
| • Pistachio Research Update | Dr Maha Mahadevan |
| • Horticulture Innovation | Dr Jay Cummings |
| • 2021/22 Market Update | Chris Joyce/Trevor Ranford |
| • Storm Damage Assessment | Trevor Ranford |

The November 2021 'Spring Sessions' round of PIT Groups were still influenced by the ongoing Covid-19 requirements of social distancing and border closures. While it looked promising that the South Australian/Victorian border would be reopened, it did not eventuate, so the Wednesday 3rd Kyalite (NSW) Pit Group meeting was a combination of Zoom meeting for the presentations, followed by a field session at Kyalite Pistachios run by Andrew Bowring.

That 25 growers attended the Paringa PIT Group meeting and 14 the Kyalite meeting shows the importance of the Pistachio Dieback problem on farms in the 2021/2022 season and the necessity of discussing this and initiating a research program.

The meeting format consisted of a barbeque/lunch to start the day at noon (both days) then an introduction to the days' events.

Trevor Ranford delivered the Pistachio Market Update in South Australia, and Chris Joyce delivered the talk at the Kyalite meeting.

In South Australia, Dr Jay Cummings talked about Horticulture Innovation and the management of the PGAI project PS20000.

Dr Maha Mahadevan gave a presentation on pistachio research undertaken or continued from Dr Subha Abeysinghe's work. This included the chill requirements per region and what was attained, work on polymers to mitigate low chill areas, bud opening and nut set, bud break survey, benchmarking and updating grower farm details.

The main part of the meeting was a presentation on Pistachio Dieback and what we know about it to this date - and looking for grower input into what they are seeing on their farms.

After the presentations there was an extended field walk in the pleasant Paringa heat, through the Simpfendorfer's Permedah property looking at various blocks with different aged trees suffering from dieback. Some dieback was identified as bacterial in nature as when the shoots/branches were cut; there was a strong odour similar to wine lees. Others appeared to have begun to shoot then stopped and the shoots/branched withered and died back.



Trevor Ranford delivering the Market Update presentation.



Martin Simpfendorfer and Dr Maha Mahadevan discussing pistachio dieback at Permedah Orchards at Paringa.



Dieback on a mature pistachio tree.