

Independent Crop Estimation & Pruning QC

For kiwifruit growers across Northland

Greenleaf Orchard Services provides independent crop estimation and pruning quality control for kiwifruit growers. Using Zespri's NK021 winter bud and spring flower count methodology, we help you set realistic Class 1 tray targets and track your orchard's progress toward them throughout the season.

What sets our service apart is timing. Our QC assessors work alongside your pruning contractors in the field – not after the fact – so if bud retention is running above or below target, the crew gets clear, documented instructions on the spot. That means fewer surprises at packout, better-informed thinning decisions in spring, and a paper trail showing exactly what was measured, when, and what action was taken.

"Know your numbers before packout does."

What's Included

- **Winter bud count** – Independent field sampling to establish winter buds/m² against your season target, plus internode and cane spacing checks.
- **Spring flower count** – Follow-up sampling after flowering to calculate fruit/m² and confirm whether on-orchard thinning is needed.
- **Target calculation** – Season targets calculated and cross-validated using Zespri's published methodology (NK021 and the Gold3 direct-algebra method).
- **Live pruner feedback** – On-the-spot instructions to your pruning crew or contractor when actual counts are running off target – documented and signed off in the field.
- **Written QC records** – A dated, block-by-block record of what was measured, by whom, and what action was taken – useful for your own records and for briefing contractors.

Why It Matters

Pruning decisions made in winter set the ceiling on your crop for the whole season – and they're usually made fast, across many rows, by contracted crews working to a brief they may interpret differently row to row. An independent set of eyes, checking counts against your target while pruning is still underway, is the difference between finding out you're off target in August and finding out at packout.

Get in touch to discuss winter bud counts, spring flower counts, or a season-long QC programme for your orchard.

greenleaf.nz