



Phosphine treatment of avocados



Snapshot

Industry partner: New Zealand Avocado

Project length: 1 year

Start date: October 2019

Estimated completion date: September 2020

Industry funding: \$60,000

MPI funding: \$40,000

New Zealand Avocado is investigating an alternative quarantine treatment for avocados.

The opportunity

When exporting it is necessary to effectively manage quarantine pests. Live quarantine pests must not be present on consignments of avocados exported to overseas countries, and effective treatment presents a challenge for our avocado industry. Using phosphine (Eco2Fume) to treat the consignments prior to export could radically reduce any live pest finds and optimise market access. This would reduce both the costs and quality impacts from any associated delays from pests and any remedial action required prior to clearance at the border.

The solution

This project will test the ability of avocados to undergo phosphine treatment in New Zealand at rates, times and temperatures that maintain fruit quality while

reducing the presence of common quarantine pests. This will help determine whether phosphine can be considered an acceptable treatment for export avocados.

The benefits

If successful, this project will benefit New Zealand by:

- reducing chemical usage that damages the environment;
- reducing issues resulting from pest finds and remedial actions at the border;
- ensuring New Zealand maintains market access and high quality fruit in key markets.