



## NZMS Field Day, 28.11.2009

The comments in this handout relate only to Ohiwa Macadamias experience. Independent advice should be sought before extrapolating to other locations.

**First plantings** 1992. Last plantings 2007

**Number of trees:** about 800

**Land Preparation:** Spraying, discing, mounding, harrowing.

**Planting spacings:** 6\*6, 7\*6, 8\*6, 9\*6, 8\*5

**Varieties:** about 23 last count. Beaumonts, Nelmacs, GT 201, Own Choice, GT 1, PA 39, Nutty Glen, A4, A268, A 104, A38, A217, A29, GT 205, GT 210, GT 288, GT 207, Mauka.

- **Beaumont:** sweet kernel and reliable high cropper of NIS, but lowish kernel recovery. Variable susceptibility to GVB. Leave existing trees.
- **Nelmacs:** Medium cropper. Biggish kernel but flavour problems. Replace.
- **GT 201:** Never performed. Replace.
- **Own Choice:** High cropper and lowish GVB susceptibility. Thick shell. Average kernel looks and flavour. Favoured variety. Increase this variety.
- **GT 1.** Very small nut, slower grower, prone to branch breakage. Never performed. Replace.
- **PA 39.** The first to mature. Prickly leaves and slow grower. Variable susceptibility to GVB. Sweet kernel. Leave existing trees.
- **Nutty Glen:** Insufficient information. An outside chance.
- **A4.** Good tree form and big cropper. Needs feeding to perform. Drops over 5 months, and last nuts have to be picked. Kernel immaturity and associated disgusting taste in occasional nuts a problem. Monitor closely and replace trees if problem worsens.
- **A268.** Fast grower and huge cropper. Big nuts and kernel. Drops over 5 months. Looked good at one stage. Kernel immaturity and associated disgusting taste in many nuts a big disappointment. Actively replace.
- **A104.** Erect tree. Moderate producer with small-medium sized nuts. Half drops, half to be picked. Very difficult to climb and pick. Kernel tastes OK. Leave existing trees.
- **A38.** Insufficient information.
- **GT 207.** Early cropper and good dropper. Half nuts annoying but not a show-stopper. Average sized sweet kernel. Consistent performer. Increase this variety.
- **Other varieties:** Insufficient information yet.

**Harvesting:** Mostly picked using woofers. Some droppers hand harvested off ground. Production presently 2 tonnes NIS. 15 tonnes expected at maturity.

Ohiwa Macadamias - Home of the WonderCracker, the Worlds Best Nutcracker!

**Orchard Maintenance:** Mowing using Kubota 20 horse power 4WD tractor with mid-mounted mower. Foliage sampling every second April, and yearly solid fertiliser applications by hand. Ewes/lambs for grass mowing and some income. Also 3 cattle. Ongoing macadamia variety replacement.

**Dehusking:** Alstonville single barrel dehusker with receival bin, elevator, & mulching blower.

**Drying:** 3 purpose built plywood chambers approx 1m\*1m\*3m high. Fans and custom made radiators under plenum supply warm forced air. Large HWC provides heat sink. HWC heated by wetback burning wood or nut shell. Manually operated overhead extraction fan removes moist air. Replacement air from ceiling cavity. Target temp 30 degrees. Target drying time 21 days.

**Processing:** Basic flywheel/knife cracker straight to trommel, then plastic bins to conveyor belt. Audion 163 vacuum sealer and N gas flushing. Nuts stored in foil bags in air-conditioned kitchen.

**Markets:** Two local markets approx 6 times/month in summer, once/month in winter. Orchard shop planned for near future.

**Biggest challenges:** Frost, GVB, non-performing varieties, dry NIS storage, green NIS drying.

**Future investment:** GVB spraying gear, Variety replacement, coolstore for dry NIS awaiting cracking, primary drying facility for green NIS, Ohiwa designed cracker.

**Profitability:** Are you kidding?

**Tips:**

- If you are growing to make a profit as opposed to lifestyle, seek independent financial advice before major decision making. Realise that because we are a small industry most 'advisors' in NZ will have a conflict of interest.
- Look forward to long hours and no pay.
- The most important decision is land purchase.
- Droppers and stickers each have their benefits and shortcomings. Horses for courses.
- Customers buy on looks, smell and taste. They don't care what happened in the orchard. When our industry matures there will be awards as for olive oil and wine, and prizes will be based on looks, smell and taste.
- Whatever you calculated the profit to be, halve it. Then halve it again.

Thank you for coming to our field day. We hope you enjoyed it and learned something to take home with you.

Warm regards,

Paul & Anne Robin.  
Ohiwa Macadamias Ltd.