

## Observations from the field

**12 October 2020**

With the unseasonably warm temperatures in Hawke’s Bay last week and the cold spell that went through Central Otago the week before I thought we might do a compare and contrast across the regions and compare them with last season.

While it is far too early to say when harvest might occur, it is a part of gathering information and observing trends that will impact, particularly on the Central Otago cherry harvest and export. The data on the portal shows a good level of accumulation of the degree growing days (GDD) for all regions compared to last year and the 5-year accumulations as well.

In summary at this stage we are not behind.

The data below is for the period 1 September to 11 October 2020 and is the GDD using a base of 10°C.

Station	GDD 2020	GDD 2019	Comment
Bay View	159	124	Easily the best in the last 5 years
Twyford	124	89	Easily the best in the last 5 years
Pakowhai	132	102	Very good
Lawn Road	124	82	Easily the best in the last 5 years
Ruahapia Road	123	94	Very good
Havelock North	117	86	Good, not exceptional
Longlands Road	127	97	Very good
Te Aute Road	113	97	Only average
Renwick	94	66	Good to normal
Cromwell	61	42	Very good after a flat patch in the last 4 days of Sept
Clyde	45	30	Very good after a flat patch in the last 4 days of Sept
Rock View	58	29	Very good after a flat patch in the last 4 days of Sept
Roxburgh East	59	21	Very good after a flat patch in the last 4 days of Sept
Ettrick	54	23	Very good after a flat patch in the last 4 days of Sept

There are two points that interested me. One was the comparatively low number for the Te Aute Road station, so I had a chat with HortPlus and confirmed that the station is working properly. The second was the shape of the final part of the curve for the Ettrick station which prompted a reminder of the 2016-17 hot year.

As already stated, – very, early yet – but worth a look.



Young apricots