

Introduction to wrist bands for pickers

Apricots

Peaches





Summerfruit New Zealand wrist band guide

Good picking decisions at harvest time lead to good quality fruit in the shopper's fruit bowl at home. Consumers want delicious, flavourful fruit and will shop for more when they have a good eating experience.

As part of a three year NZ Market project 'Harvest Assurance Tools' Summerfruit NZ worked with selected growers in Hawkes Bay and Central Otago during the 2014-15 season. We wanted to know if wearing coloured wrist bands helped pickers take the best fruit from the tree. Would wearing a wrist band reduce the quantity of under-ripe fruit going into the bin? Initial indications were positive and our goal is to get more growers to use this innovative tool.

There's nothing to lose and everything to gain by trialling wrist bands on pickers.

This guide explains the benefits of pickers wearing wrist bands for selected varieties of summerfruit. With more growers trialling wrist bands we will be able to further develop the colours and also establish what the true benefits are across the industry.



Royal Rosa

Tips for pickers

No sunglasses, only hats.

Check if you are colour blind, especially men.

Pick fruit with the sun behind you.

Pick from the outside and top of the tree first and work inwards.

Taste test – if you wouldn't eat it don't pick it.

Pick summerfruit with your whole hand rather than just your fingers.

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Features	Benefits for pickers	Benefits for growers
Comfortable, clean and easy to wear.	Can be worn on both wrists.	Supports picking the best coloured fruit from the tree.
Can be worn 24/7 – in the shower, no need to remove and mislay.	Close fitting so won't get caught in branches.	Reduces supervision of staff.
Long life and hard wearing silicone.	Constant reminder of the best fruit colour to pick.	Helps to check that the best coloured fruit is picked.
No fading and won't split or tear.	Support tool while alone in the tree.	Less immature fruit to manage at the packhouse is a saving.
Cost effective.	Great for inexperienced or first time pickers.	Works best for first and second picks.
When placed in bin allows a visual check of picked fruit.	Gives confidence for first and second picks or when there is a lot of immature fruit.	More immature fruit is left on the tree to size up and mature.
A selection of colours to choose from to suit your orchard growing conditions.		Supports supervisors with management and training of pickers.



Wrist band colours



A1

A2

A3

Each summerfruit growing location produces slightly different coloured fruit and each season colours are affected by the weather, particularly sunshine hours. These factors along with the age of the tree, pruning and management of tree health will contribute to the richness of colour, as will ground cover reflective cloth used to colour fruit.

Choose the colour(s) which best suit your orchard needs. Note that the colours selected may work for other apricot and golden peach varieties. Work carried out over past seasons indicated:

A1 preferred choice for Sundrop apricots

A2 apricots and peaches

A3 early indications Clutha Gold apricots

A1, A2 & A3 may be suitable for all other apricot and peach varieties

We are constantly evaluating wrist band colours in order to provide a comprehensive selection of wrist bands to growers. If you are interested in more colours being developed, please contact Summerfruit NZ.



A1



A2



A3