

# COMPACT FRUIT TREE

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

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## NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE VIDEO

Although we have attended many IDFTA Annual Conferences and Summer Tours in past years, not one has quite matched the relevance and distinctive flavor of the February 2000 Conference held in New Zealand's Hawke's Bay fruit production region. After all, New Zealand is the premier exporter of the apple cultivars Gala and Braeburn that are one and the same with the country. And its orchards are some of the most productive on a per hectare basis in the world. Add the incredible scenery and climate of the Pacific island nation, and no wonder it was quite an experience!

Fortunately, we had the foresight to capture the Conference orchard tours on video tape, and have produced a 42-minute VHS video program that highlights some of the more informative portions of the orchard tours with explanations by our New Zealand owner/operators /hosts.

For example, hear nursery owner Kerry Sixtus explain the current New Zealand growing and marketing environment as well as see close-up his nursery production fields. And, watch Jon Moffitt, former ENZA director, further clarify the country's production environment and volatile apple cultivar situation with his own distinctive Kiwi flair. We will then take you to a large Pink Lady block where orchard operator Lynn Thompson explains its unique establishment and production history.

Later in the program, we move on to the HortResearch experimental farm near Hastings, where scientist Dr. Stuart Tustin and his colleagues explain their latest rootstock, planting systems, cultivar, and IFP (Integrated Fruit Production) research. Thereafter, consultant Ross Wilson discusses the finer aspects of Gala growing and harvest in a large commercial block, and orchardist Tony Gilbertson talks more about cultivars and rootstocks.

Interspersed are scenic and cultural video clips, including native Maori song and dance and a mountaintop lunch. We also bring you several short highlights from two days of Conference presentations at the Municipal Theater in Napier, including those of American scientists Drs. Terence Robinson and Greg Lang, British rootstock guru Dr. Tony Webster, and German orchard consultant Michael Weber.

If you did not make the trip to New Zealand, the video can be your window to the competitive marketing—but benevolent fruit growing—environment “down-under.” We believe the video is an educational “first” for IDFTA and appreciate your comments and support. Given the opportunity, we also plan to bring a video camera on future IDFTA tours and conferences with the goal of producing video programs (perhaps on DVD as well as VHS tape!) that will be informative and entertaining additions to every IDFTA member's library.

To purchase the ‘IDFTA 2000 Goes Down-Under: Highlights from the New Zealand Fruit Tour’ video, send check or money order (payable to: Agricultural Advisory Council) for \$29.95 USD to Win Cowgill, Extension Center, 4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822-9058, or e-mail [video@virtualorchard.net](mailto:video@virtualorchard.net). You can also order the video (as well as see short QuickTime® video clips) on the IDFTA website, <http://www.idfta.org>.

*Jon Clements*  
Extension Tree Fruit Specialist  
University of Massachusetts

*Win Cowgill*  
Professor and County Ag Agent  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
Virtual Orchard co-webmasters  
[www.virtualorchard.net](http://www.virtualorchard.net)

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