

Mark Mayston

"I have a true passion for rural life and an increasing responsibility for rural affairs, particularly within the kiwifruit industry."

Current position in the kiwifruit industry –

Grower General Manager

Who do you work for?

Bruntwood Farms Limited

What does your role involve?

My role involves the day-to-day management of operational staff. The business has both a large orchard operation and also a large contracting outfit. Between the two functions there are dozens of staff such as pruners and supervisors who carry out all aspects of relative orchard tasks like mowing, mulching, pruning and other seasonal orchard activities.

We have a team of permanent staff who meet most mornings to discuss what needs to be done within the organisations. I am also responsible for all in-office tasks as well, such as working on our accounts and tax payments.

What was your career path?

I completed a Certificate in Horticulture Theory straight out of school with the open polytechnic in conjunction with Lincoln University. I was then contracted to work for Zespri for several months before managing Wairoa Coolstores – a medium scale post-harvest and pollination specialist servicing growers in the Western Bay of Plenty. At the time Wairoa was one of the largest beekeepers in New Zealand.

After this I worked for Apata for a period of time as an Orchard Operations Manager before returning to the family business – a kiwifruit and avocado growing operation in Tauranga.

In addition to this, I sit on numerous industry bodies including directorships of Bruntwood Farms Ltd, Apata Suppliers Ltd and Apata Suppliers Entity Ltd, Primor Produce Ltd and Maniaroa Properties Ltd. I'm also an Executive Committee Member and Forum Member of New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc, and a member of the regional committee for Kiwifruit Vine Health in Tauranga and Katikati.

What do you like about working within the kiwifruit industry?

Born and bred into a horticultural and farming lifestyle, I am the third generation of kiwifruit orchardists in my family and the fifth generation of rural farmers. I love the growing side of things and the kiwifruit industry is a progressive industry. The kiwifruit industry has a very united front and the single point of entry gives the industry a firm, collective approach.

**Grower /General
Manager**

Mark Mayston

"I am the third generation of kiwifruit
orchardists in my family"

**Zespri Kiwifruit
is rich in fibre,
which regulates
your digestive
system**