Mango Heat Sum Instructions

Chelsea Moore

The Heat Sums Calculator is a tool for predicting fruit maturity, as defined as a dry matter of 14%, from flowering data. It can be used to effectively organise resources (such as transport and harvest labour) to avoid bottlenecks; for planning and marketing purposes.

The heat sum formula adds the daily average temperatures until a pivotal heat unit is reached. Forecasts are based on historical average temperatures, different varieties have slightly different heat units. The calculation is as follows:

[(max temp + min temp)/2] – 12

The different mango varieties have slightly different heat units as follows:

Variety	Heat Units from stage 6
KP	1600
R2E2	1800
Florida types	1680

Kensington Pride (KP) and R2E2 growers should count the flowers at stage 6 of panicle emergence (the first time the bud can be seen). Some growers prefer to use stage 14 (about 2/3 open), however this requires approximately 300 less heat units.

Stage 6

Stage 14

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, AND FISHERIES
Plant Industries Division
GPO Box 3000 Darwin NT 0801 Tel: 08 8999 2357 Fax: 08 8999 2049 Email: horticulture@nt.gov.au Web: www.horticulture.nt.gov.au

Published March 2013