



**The Olive Press**

**14 Arbor Place**

**Greytown 5794**

[www.theolivepress.co.nz](http://www.theolivepress.co.nz)

**2018**

**Olive Processing  
& Oil Production  
Handbook**



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# The Olive Press – Essential Information

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## Location

14 Arbor Place (off Bidwills Cutting Road)  
Greedytown 5794

## Press Operating Hours

- Normal operating hours are **8am to 6pm** on processing days.
- Other hours **by prior arrangement only**.
- **No** casual processing - the press will **not** open unless it is booked.

## Contact Details

**Executive Director (bookings, scheduling & customer liaison)**

Rod Lingard, phone (027) 443 5996, email [rod@theolivepress.co.nz](mailto:rod@theolivepress.co.nz)

**Operations Manager (on-site processing co-ordination)**

Garry Lingard, phone (021) 275 4262, email [garry@theolivepress.co.nz](mailto:garry@theolivepress.co.nz)

## Essential Steps

The four key tasks that customers should be planning to do as soon as possible are:

1. Get your grove(s) ready – page 5
2. Book the press – page 6
3. Send Harvest Information & Supplier Declaration Forms – pages 6, 14, 15 (and available on website).
4. Ensure you co-ordinate your harvesting between the contract harvester (if you are machine harvesting) and the press - do not leave this to chance.



## Standards & Certification

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### Processing Standards

2018 marks TOP's seventeenth consecutive harvest. Over this time, we have processed fruit from all over the North Island and have accumulated extensive experience of the differing regional climates and other factors involved.

This year, our olive processing & oil production team will comprise:

- **Pablo Voitruk** (international EVOO consultant, master oil-maker & judge)
- **Garry Lingard** (production co-ordinator and secondary press operator)
- **Richard & James** (primary press operator & processing assistant)
- **Contracted support staff** (as required)

### Food Safety/HACCP Programme

TOP is fully certified and compliant with all food safety and health & safety requirements. Relevant certificates from Assured Audits New Zealand Ltd and the Ministry of Primary Industries can be viewed on the company's website.

Customers are advised to familiarise themselves with the new requirements under the Food Act 2014, which came into effect on 1 March 2016. This law affects all sellers of food products.

### Food Standards Regulations

Growers are required to comply with the current version of the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Limits of Agricultural Compounds) Food Standards:

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/register-list-mrl-agricultural-compounds.htm>



## Pre-harvest Assessment & Planning

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### Olive Fruit Assessment

Accurate fruit assessment is not only important for deciding optimum ripeness, key flavour profiles and oil yield, it is critical for planning and booking the press. While a customer's responsibility, TOP can assist those uncertain as to the ideal harvest conditions and timing for their olive varieties. Please contact Rod Lingard if you are seeking further advice or information on fruit assessment.

### Near Infrared (NIR) Analysis of Fruit

Good news for customers wanting a more precise method of testing oil/moisture content in their fruit - this year TOP is co-ordinating NIR analysis with Matapiro Olives in Hawkes Bay. Provided fruit samples are delivered to TOP in Greytown by 4:00pm on specified days, customers will receive test results by email the next day for oil content, moisture content, oil/dry matter ratio, and expected oil yield. If interested, please contact Rod Lingard for further details and pricing information.

### Grove Readiness **[ESSENTIAL STEP #1]**

Pine needles, plastic irrigators, various metal objects and other ***unwanted contaminants*** – these items still find their way into the system despite screens, blowers and washers deployed at various stages throughout the process.

To maintain the integrity of TOP's processing standards, ***and the grower's fruit and oil quality***, it is important these unwelcome nasties are kept out of the pressing process by giving the grove a good once-over prior to harvesting. Clearing or pruning away excess dead foliage will also help immeasurably. Those using a mechanical harvester will also need to keep the bottom metre of tree trunk clear to ensure the harvester can maximise its vibration technology.



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## Booking the Press **[ESSENTIAL STEP #2]**

Although the season typically runs from May/June to August, we still operate on a 'demand' basis only – if there are no bookings, the plant will **not** be open. At the peak of the season, there may be two or more mechanical harvesters working our region, which means the harvest will require careful planning and co-ordination. Furthermore, frosted fruit will be given precedence ahead of others but **only** if there is a prior booking, so don't risk a delay to your processing - **it is essential to accurately assess your fruit and book the press early!**

To assist planning, customers should advise their **harvest estimate** (by volume with a plus-20% leeway) and their preferred **delivery date/time** (together with any special process requirements) by sending Rod the **Olive Harvest Information sheet** as soon as possible - see page 14.

Customers must **book directly with Rod**, and then **confirm their booking the day before delivery**. Again, TOP always try to accommodate frosted fruit on a 'first come/first served' basis, where possible, so don't leave this to chance.

## Supplier Declaration Forms **[ESSENTIAL STEP #3]**

**Supplier Declaration Forms** are required on or before the first fruit delivery.

**Important:** Please provide one form for each grove where product is sourced from various locations/groves. This is important so we can comply with our audited Food Safety Programme. **If the Supplier Declaration Form (see page 15) is not completed in full, signed and provided with the fruit at the time of delivery to the press, or previously, the fruit will be rejected. TOP will not accept any responsibility for the fruit in these circumstances.**



## Olive Harvest

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### Fruit Picking

Picking by hand offers customers a selective if time-consuming method for harvesting olives – it's ideal for maximising tree yield when faced with 'sticky' fruit or avoiding those that are damaged, and essential for harvesting table olives.

However, hand pickers are hard to find so plan well ahead if utilising this method. Harvesting by hand can also be problematic during poor weather – wet olives cannot be held for long before pressing; and mud from nets (especially from clay soils) can survive fruit washing at the press thus compromising oil quality.

Customers picking fruit by hand will need to be mindful of their existing booking arrangements if their harvest is delayed by unsuitable weather conditions.

### Mechanical Harvesting **[ESSENTIAL STEP #4]**

With a cropping rate of 60+ trees per hour, customers need to be organised when using a mechanical harvester – you should have trees selected; fruit bins at the ready (with in-grove labour to operate forklift tractor); and transport to TOP arranged, all by the time the harvester arrives on site (bins supplied by TOP are **only** available to customers sending their fruit to TOP's processing facilities).

#### **Important:**

- i) Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, olive groves are workplaces – so keep plenty of protective gear handy, including hats, boots, gloves and ear muffs/plugs – you are obliged to have an on-grove Health & Safety plan and comply with it at all times.
- ii) If you are transporting bins from a gravel platform (or soil!), please ensure stones and soil are not caught on the pallet base as these can drop into the press hopper during unloading.



## Fruit Containers, Fruit Storage & Transport

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### Fruit Bins & Trays

Most customers are now using the ventilated CHEP Shuttle Bin SB1 available through TOP or something similar to store and transport their fruit. These bins work well with our rotating-head forklift and are at their most efficient cost-wise when deployed in-grove with a mechanical harvester. If required, they must be ***pre-booked through Rod*** - see Schedule of Charges.

Customers with smaller crops will find the 15kg ventilated stacker tray or something similar very effective (please, no plastic bags or cardboard boxes!) provided they remember they are responsible for unloading the fruit at the press.

Where pressing efficiency is concerned, more fruit the better. Quite apart from the reduced processing costs that come with volume the malaxing process works best with full vats (600-700kgs).

### Fruit Storage (prior to processing) & Transporting Fruit

Provided harvested fruit is dry, disease/frost free, and kept cool, it can be held safely (including undercover in the grove) for up to 24 hours before processing.

Our aim is to process fruit no later than the next processing day after delivery. Customers should consider overall hold time when booking.

Getting the fruit to the press remains the owner's responsibility – please ensure fruit volume is no more than 20% above estimate; is covered in transit (especially on dusty gravel roads); and is delivered on the right day and time .



## Fruit Presentation & Processing

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### Fruit Standards

All our customers understand that clean, ripe fruit usually delivers the best quality oil and yield. Fruit that's too dry/shrivelled or affected by disease, frost or hail will not only produce a less than ideal result it could also compromise our pressing process. To avoid such a situation potentially affecting others, customers need to be aware - ***TOP has the right to refuse badly damaged or diseased fruit.***

The press can handle some leaf and twig but excess amount will affect oil yield and quality. Mud, particularly from heavy clay soils, can also taint the resulting oil. These factors need to be managed in-grove during harvesting, especially if a food safety plan applies to a grove. ***A charge may be levied for pre-pressing fruit cleaning - see Schedule of Charges.***

### Processing Standards & Options

TOP's goal is to extract the maximum amount of the available oil present in the customer's fruit. Needless to say, fruit ripeness, variety, quality and many other environmental factors have the capacity to influence the achievement of this goal.

We use food-grade talcs and approved enzymes to aid oil yield where fruit is in less than optimal condition e.g. not fully ripe or high moisture content. Our staff can assist growers with any information they require regarding these products.

By prior arrangement, customers also have the option of *agrumato* processing - adding approved natural infusion products e.g. cut up lemons, to their fruit during the pressing process. These products will be weighed with olives and pressed at the end of the day and prior to a special wash down (which will attract an additional charge of \$250 spread across all infused pressings that day).



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Please note – for plant operational efficiency, we cannot process at more than a ratio of 20% infusing material to olives. A handling fee will be charged if batch output is required to be racked off into small containers.

## **Fruit Supply Notification**

### **(Formal Advice to Olive Suppliers under our Food Safety Plan)**

Before fruit can be accepted for processing, you must comply with the following:

- 1 Notify us that you have fruit for processing and state expected volume of fruit and harvesting date (see **OLIVE HARVEST INFORMATION** sheet).
- 2 You have read, understood and signed the **SUPPLIER DECLARATION**.
- 3 Quality of fruit supplied must be free of contamination such as: chemical residues, fungal spores, soil and stones, faeces of wild or domestic birds or animals, pathogenic organisms, bacteria, viruses or parasites.
- 4 Individual crates of produce are required to be labelled clearly with the following information:

*Supplier's name*

*Grove (Source)*

*Fruit type*

*Harvest date*

***To assist customers, TOP will provide pre-printed labels. Please specify on the Harvest Information Sheet the quantity of labels you estimate you will require (one per bin).***

Our rationale for the above requests are:

- Site Operational Scheduling and ability to process on day of harvest;
- Requirements under our HACCP-based Food Safety Programme and Code of Practice;
- Control of food safety hazards from external sources; and
- Product identification and traceability.

Thank you for your co-operation.



## Oil Receptacles, Storage & Collection

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### Small Volume Oil Containers

TOP will accept only two types of container to receive a customer's oil – stainless steel and food-grade plastic – ***glass and other types of non-approved containers will be refused on food and/or workplace safety grounds.***

Receptacle cleanliness and hygiene are the customer's responsibility - please ensure each container has an efficient sealing device to retain the food-quality nitrogen that TOP adds to the oil after processing (to inhibit oxidation).

**Important:** TOP has a limited supply of its own receptacles for sale to customers, so to avoid embarrassment ***can customers please ensure they have sufficient containers to receive the oil.*** For volume producers, we have our own 200-litre drums and 1000-litre containers available for a one-time hire fee plus storage if kept on site (these are not for sale and are to be returned).

Unless by prior arrangement, customers are required to collect their oil from the press within 24 hours of processing. After 24 hours, oil will be transferred to bulk oil storage and storage charges will start accruing from that time.

### Bulk Oil Storage

By prior arrangement, customers have the option of storing their oil on site in 1000-litre unicons/boxes/pods or 200-litre drums, both with food-grade liners. TOP has a high-speed oil pump and replacement liners for those customers wanting on-site oil storage and management – see Schedule of Charges.

***Subject to TOP's prior approval and compliance with its food safety plan,*** customers may use their own bulk receptacles - see Schedule of Charges.



## Customer Protocols

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### Fruit Delivery, Oil Collection & Processing Records

Customers are responsible for unloading/checking weight of fruit and for uplifting oil, unless prior arrangements have been made for bulk deliveries & collection.

TOP records all the relevant processing data – date received, date of processing, batch number, fruit variety & weight received, oil yield (by weight & %) and any other relevant factors. This is recorded on a TOP label affixed to the customer's container and invoice. Post-processing testing is the customer's responsibility.

### On-site Health & Safety

Customers are asked to observe all notices and respect all requests from staff, including instructions required under the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015.

***Unless specifically authorised by the Operations Manager, there can be no access by customers to the processing area.*** Floor markings and safety cones ***must be observed***. Anyone entering the premises ***must sign in*** and wear a high visibility top. ***Visitors are responsible for their own safety.***

Main hazards include moving conveyor belts, moving forklift, noise, slippery floor and oil fumes when close to malaxing bins – eye and ear protection is recommended and are available for visitors' use along with high visibility vests. Customers are asked to exercise judgment in conversing with staff during processing – distraction can compromise quality and may lead to accidents.

Where customers are authorised to enter the premises for processing purposes (e.g. introducing infusion material) they do so at their own risk and must comply at all times with TOP's Health & Safety requirements and standards.



## Terms of Trade

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1. TOP will usually be open daily for business from 8.00am to 6.00pm during the processing season, with variable hours available according to processing demand.
2. Customers will book the arranged date and time for delivering olive fruit to be processed by TOP. Some flexibility may be required with processing times and dates.
3. TOP reserves the right to change any arranged processing dates and times, or hold over until the next processing day any olives delivered for processing, but will give Customers as much notice as possible of any change.
4. If Customers cannot meet the arranged fruit delivery dates and/or times or if fruit volumes differ by more than 20% of the initial booking, they must contact TOP prior to delivery. TOP will do its best to accommodate any changes.
5. TOP reserves the right to reject any olives delivered for processing if the olives are unsuitable for processing due to spoilage or contamination.
6. Customers will bring sufficient suitable containers (no glass) for oil collection at the time olives are delivered for processing. These must be clearly marked with customer's name and olive fruit varieties.
7. Customers will be invoiced according to the weight and corresponding cost of each batch processed, as per TOP's Processing Rates and Schedule of Charges.
8. Unless alternative arrangements have been agreed to prior to processing, Customers agree to pay TOP, by cash, EFTPOS, cheque or direct credit, all costs involved with processing their olives, prior to or upon collection of their oil.
9. TOP will comply with the highest standards applicable to the olive processing services. Please note however:
  - (a) Except as expressly otherwise provided above, all representations or warranties (statutory, express or implied) except any which may not lawfully be excluded, are expressly excluded.
  - (b) The Customer agrees for the purposes of the above that the olive processing services are provided to it for the purposes of business and accordingly the provisions of the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 do not apply to the provision of such services.
  - (c) Under no circumstances will TOP or any of its officers, employees, contractors or agents be liable to the Customer in contract, in tort (including but not limited to negligence), in equity for breach of statutory duty or otherwise for loss (whether direct or indirect) of fruit, oil, profits, revenue, business, data or anticipated savings or for any indirect or consequential loss whatsoever.
  - (d) These provisions form part of the Terms of Trade which by supplying olives for processing the Customer agrees to.
10. For the avoidance of doubt, any insurance relating to the Customer's property including (but not limited to) olive fruit, olive oil, processing products and containers, will be the Customer's sole responsibility. TOP does not insure customers' oil, containers, or other property.



# 2018 Olive Harvest Information Sheet

**Customer Number:** ..... (where existing customer)

**Trade Name:** .....

**Contact Person:** .....

**Grove Address:** .....  
.....

**Mailing Address:** .....  
(for invoicing) .....

**Phones:** .....  
(Home) (Work)

**Mobile:** .....

**Email:** .....

**Harvest Forecast Information:**

- 1. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....
- 2. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....
- 3. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....
- 4. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....
- 5. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....
- 6. Varietal ..... no.of trees ..... est. total weight (kgs) .....

**Anticipated Harvest Start Date:** .....

**Pre-printed Labels – please specify quantity required** .....

*Please print/scan this form and email ASAP to: Rod Lingard  
PO Box 137  
Greytown 5742  
Email: [rod@theolivepress.co.nz](mailto:rod@theolivepress.co.nz)*



# 2018 Supplier Declaration Form

## 1. Supplier (fruit producer or purchaser)

.....

## 2. Source of Supply

.....

(Grove name and location)

Declare that the following answers given are a true history of the management of the above mentioned grove.

## 3. Spray History

Have any of the following spray groups been applied to any area of the above mentioned grove at any time during the **15 days** prior to harvest?

<i>Fungicides</i>	YES	NO (circle one)
<i>Pesticides</i>	YES	NO
<i>Copper</i>	YES	NO
<i>Stroby</i>	YES	NO
<i>Foliar Fertilizer</i>	YES	NO
<i>Other</i>	YES	NO

If 'other', please state.....

.....

(what)

(when)

**Note: we confirm that we keep a spray diary which is available upon request for inspection. We acknowledge that we must respect the Maximum Residue Limits of Agriculture Compounds:**

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/register-list-mrl-agricultural-compounds.htm>

## Declaration

I accept responsibility for checking the condition of the processed oil upon collection from The Olive Press Limited. I understand that no responsibility will be taken by The Olive Press Limited for product damaged or contaminated once it leaves the processing plant. I confirm I have read and accept TOP's Terms of Trade, as per the company's website.

Signed..... Dated.....

**Please return this form completed with, or prior to, fruit delivery to The Olive Press.**