

The New Zealand kiwifruit industry has more than 180 million trays of green and gold kiwifruit waiting to be picked and packed in 2022.

For that, we're going to need in excess of 24,000 seasonal workers from March through to June on orchards and in packhouses in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Waihi/Coromandel, the Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay, the lower North Island and the Tasman area.



physically demanding but packhouse roles are available to suit all ages, including sorting/grading, packing, packhouse supervision and management, logistical support (e.g. forklift operation).

Benefits of the work for seniors include socialising with others of all ages and nationalities, the exercise and the variety of locations in some of New Zealand's most beautiful regions.

Kiwifruit work isn't just limited to picking and packing, however; growing kiwifruit is nearly a yearround operation and permanent roles are also available.

PAY RATES

Seasonal workers in the kiwifruit industry are guaranteed the minimum wage (currently \$20.00/hr but may increase from 1 April 2022).

In the 2021 season, picking roles paid an average of \$28.27 per hour. Rates, however, do vary with most employers ranging from \$22.10 to \$40 per hour.

Most unskilled packhouse roles such as packing, start from \$22.10 plus holiday pay; more skilled roles in the packhouse for trained and experienced workers can pay up to \$43.50 per hour.



PROVISION FOR SENIORS

A number of kiwifruit employers have made provisions for seniors wishing to take up seasonal roles such as shorter shifts and jobsharing arrangements.

Some packhouse sites also offer parking space for the growing number of "grey nomads" – senior people travelling New Zealand and open to casual working opportunities.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc. places a strong emphasis on worker welfare and urges anyone considering taking up a seasonal role to thoroughly familiarise themselves with their rights and check out prospective employers carefully. Anyone who experiences issues or has concerns about their employment should contact NZKGI on 0800 232 505.

MORE INFORMATION

More detailed information on working in the kiwifruit industry can be found on the NZKGI website (www.nzkgi.org.nz), including the useful guide to kiwifruit jobs, The Little Green and Gold Book and the Kiwifruit Jobs NZ Facebook page (@KiwifruitJobsNZ).







KEEN TO FIND SEASONAL WORK IN THE KIWIFRUIT INDUSTRY?

For up-to-date information on orchard and packhouse jobs, pay rates, provisions, facts and figures, check inside.

Or visit our website: **NZKGI.org.nz** and Facebook page: **KiwifruitJobsNZ**





