

High Performance Manuka Plantations *PGP Programme*

Quarterly Progress Report

July to September 2012 (Quarter 1 2012/13)

Executive Summary

There are four projects / objectives in the High Performance Manuka Plantations PGP Programme.

Work was progressed in the following areas during Quarter 1 2012/13:

Objective 1: Determine the key environmental factors which influence plant growth, flowering, nectar yield and nectar quality through controlled greenhouse trials

Soil evaluation trial has been set up in the greenhouse. Various methods are being evaluated for the analysis of nectar components.

Objective 2: Determine the effects of site, microsite and stocking rate on growth, flowering, nectar yield and quality

Trial micro-sites of Manuka varieties and clones were established within the two existing Manuka plantations in the lower North Island region. A small pilot micro-site of Manuka varieties and clones was established in the lower Eastern North Island region.

Development of field nectar sampling techniques is on-going.

Weather stations were established within the planted sites.