



FOCUS GROVE

Increasing quantity, quality, and resilience in the New Zealand olive oil Industry.



INTENTION:

To advance the science and practices underpinning NZ Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) production by continuing the research processes developed by the Grove Project with a focus on the production of top quality EVOO through soil and tree health.



THE TWO PRIORITIES ARE:

1. Further grove management programs focusing on increasing grove productivity through quantity and quality, and resilience to environmental and weather challenges by:
 - a. Canopy Management
 - b. Disease Control
 - c. Soil Management

Resulting in:

- i. Increased fruit set
- ii. Increasing the quality and quantity of oil at harvest.



THE TWO PRIORITIES ARE:

2. To better characterise polyphenol production in NZ.
 - a. Support improved understanding of existing baseline quantitative knowledge over time. (AUT project)
 - b. Evaluate the potential for canopy and crop management to influence and increase the polyphenol content of NZ EVOO.

QUANTITY

Increase the quantity of fruit set on the trees through:

- Canopy Management:
 - To assist with mitigation of late spring frost damage
 - Prune to stimulate suitable growth for flowering

- Disease Management:
 - Anthracnose control during flowering
 - Healthy groves with low disease pressure

- Soil Management:
 - Soils regularly monitored and actions made for nutrient corrections





QUALITY & QUANTITY

Increase the quantity & quality of oil at harvest through:

- Canopy Management:
 - To assist with mitigation of autumn frost damage
 - Prune to stimulate suitable harvest management

- Disease Management

- Soil Management:
 - Nutrients are balanced and correct



RESILIENCE

Protecting production through environmental impacts by:

- Soil Management: Enhancing structure and function
 - Increase ability to retain or release water
 - Approaches for increasing soil carbon
 - Opportunities from customising grove sward composition/management