

High Performance Manuka Plantations *PGP Programme*

Quarterly Progress Report

October to December 2012 (Quarter 2 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 2 2012/13:

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

Early stages of plant growth have been assessed in the trial examining the effects of soils on a range of Manuka clones.

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 a fourth large scale Manuka plantation in the central North Island.

Monitoring of the established Manuka variety and clone trial plots and broad acre Manuka plantings continued at two sites in the lower North Island, and at the pilot site in the lower Eastern North Island region.

Field techniques for nectar sampling have been perfected.