

THERE IS NO

ONE

ANSWER

Dr Chris Searle

Queensland Horticulture Institute

Bundaberg Research Station

“I’ve tried a number of canopy management strategies but none have really worked for me.”

“Why do you keep changing your story on canopy management?”

“What is the best canopy management strategy?”

THERE IS NO ONE ANSWER

- **One system will not fit all growers**
- **A canopy management system cannot be applied in isolation**
- **Canopy management is not static -
it is responsive
it evolves with time**

**Decide on a system that will work
for You and Your farm**

NOT ON

“That sounds like a good idea”

or

**“That system is giving the highest yields,
I’ll run with it”**

Hedgerow/Plant Growth Regulator System

Potential to deliver consistently high yields

Requirements:

- **High level of management ability**
- **Reasonable knowledge of avocado physiology**
- **Considerable mechanical and manual inputs**

High 'stress' system - reduced margin for error



Cannot be applied in isolation

Only one component of a holistic management approach

- **Orchard floor management**
- **Canopy management**

Orchard floor management

- **minimise root rot**
- **optimise conditions for root growth - organic matter, aeration, compaction**
- **water management - match application to demand**

Nutrition - balance - sufficient for production but does not stimulate excessive vegetative growth

'Stress' minimisation

Optimise growth regulator performance

- **Apply at physiologically correct time**
- **Apply physiologically correct amount**

In the initial stages - seek advice



Time of pruning

Vital to prune at right time - mature summer flush in time for flower induction

- **Timely, repeat access to pruning saw**
- **Safety on slopes**

Considerable amount of hand pruning to control aggressive water shoots
create 'windows' in canopy

Canopy management field day

Objectives

- to demonstrate a range of canopy management options delivering high yields of quality fruit
- to stimulate ideas and discussion
- to help you make decisions for your farm

A decision that matches the canopy management system to the conditions and available resources

Choosing a system that will work for you