



HAWKE'S BAY
Fruitgrowers'
ASSOCIATION

**Enter
Now**



Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower of the Year 2026

18th – 19th June 2026

Developing our future leaders



HAWKE'S BAY
**YOUNG
FRUIT GROWER**
OF THE YEAR

Young Grower
of the year



Thinking of entering this year's competition?

The 2026 Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower competition aims to inspire and acknowledge the talents of young people employed in the fruit sector in Hawke's Bay. The competition provides a platform to network and interact with other aspiring young horticulturists, to explore different aspects of the industry, whilst learning from experienced industry leaders.



The competition has an emphasis on practical production skills, business skills associated with growing and industry knowledge.

Contestants must be 30 years or under as at 31 December 2026, have a minimum of two years of full-time employment in the fruit growing industry or a horticulture-related sector closely associated with fruit growing, or finished studying Level 2 and working towards or have already completed the Level 4 Industry Training Scheme (refer to the conditions of entry) or achieved a higher qualification.

Contestants will be challenged with practical and theoretical testing stations based on the day-to-day activities of post apprenticeship employees. Past modules have included, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Pest and disease identification
- Fruit variety identification
- Sprayer calibration
- Plant support systems
- Pruning
- Grafting
- Equipment assembly
- Tractor safety/maintenance
- Weed identification
- Chemical application
- Irrigation systems
- Business skills

Contestants will be required to present two speeches on the second day of the competition. Points from the leadership panel and speech competition will contribute to the overall competition scorecard. Speech topics are provided to contestants approximately two weeks before the competition.

For more information, entry form and conditions visit www.hbfa.co.nz/yfoty



New Zealand's Young Grower of the Year Competition

Young Grower
of the year

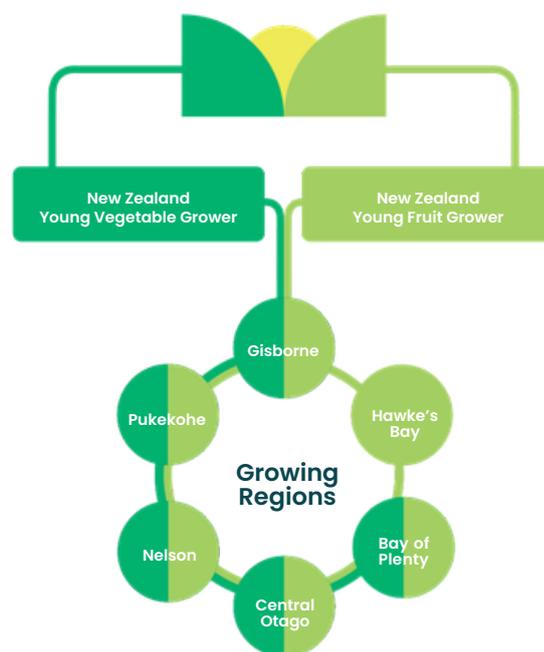
Young Grower of the Year is an annual competition to find the best young fruit and vegetable growers in New Zealand.

Young fruit and vegetable growers from around the country compete in one of six regional heats, testing their horticultural skills and knowledge.

The winner of the 2026 Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower competition will compete in the national final of the Young Grower of the Year, with the location and date to be confirmed. They will also have the chance to win additional prizes, including \$12,000. The winner of the Young Grower competition will then represent the horticulture sector at the Young Horticulturist of the Year the following year.

The Young Grower competition pushes contestants out of their comfort zone and teaches individuals valuable new skills. The competition provides exceptional professional development and networking opportunities, providing a massive career boost to all who enter.

For more information about the Young Grower of the Year visit www.younggrower.co.nz



Competition Structure: Young Grower of the Year



About the Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower Competition ...

The competition is an opportunity for up-and-coming young horticulturists to challenge their knowledge and practical skills against other young future leaders of the industry.

The competition is held over two days. Day one contestants undertake a range of horticultural-related theoretical and practical activities at the Lindisfarne College

We have the leadership panel on day two of the competition. Contestants will be required to deliver a short speech on a pre-selected topic. After the presentation, contestants will be asked one question from the facilitator. Once all eight finalists have spoken, questioning will be opened up to the floor and each contestant will be required to answer, at least one more question. Contestants will be marked both on presentation and their ability to answer the questions.

A formal awards dinner will be held later that evening at the Toitoti Arts and Events Centre, where contestants participate in a speech competition and awards will be presented to the winners.

Win

All contestants compete to win the title of Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower are eligible for the following prizes:



Overall Winner

\$1,000 cash and a wheelbarrow packed with sponsors goods

All expenses paid trip to the Young Grower of the Year final

All expenses paid trip (including travel, meals, registration fee and accommodation) to attend the New Zealand Apple and Pears Conference

All expenses paid trip (including travel, meals, registration fee and accommodation) to attend the National Horticulture Conference.

Annual subscription to The Orchardist magazine

1st Runner Up

\$750 cash

Annual subscription to The Orchardist magazine

2nd Runner Up

\$500 cash Annual subscription to The Orchardist magazine

Section Prizes

Eight sponsored testing station prizes for the winner of each section.

Prizes for the winner of the Hortisports competition, leadership panel and speech section.

How to enter:

1.

An entry form can be found on www.hbfa.co.nz/yfoty or email yfoty@hbfa.co.nz

2.

Download, complete the form and email to yfoty@hbfa.co.nz

3.

All entries must be fully completed and received by **5.00pm Monday 13th April 2026**

Conditions of Entry

1. Contestants must have a minimum of two years of full-time employment in the fruit growing industry or a horticulture-related sector closely associated with fruit growing, or finished studying Level 2 and working towards/completed the Level 4 Industry training Scheme or have achieved a higher qualification.
2. Contestants must be 30 years of age or under as at 31 December 2026.
3. Contestants must show evidence of completing a minimum of two years practical work experience in the fruit industry or horticulture-related sector i.e. letter from the employer
4. All applications must be received by 5.00pm, 13th April, 2026.
5. Contestants agree to be available for pre-competition meetings as advised by the organisers.
6. Contestants agree to abide by the competition rules.
7. All contestants must be familiar with health and safety issues associated with competition activities and follow the procedures set in place for the competition.
8. Contestants must be a New Zealand citizen or hold a current New Zealand residency permit.
9. Prize winners of the Hawke's Bay Young Fruit Grower competition must ensure that all cash, travel, conference attendance, personal development and scholarship prizes are taken up or redeemed within 12 months of the competition.
10. Contestants must be available, if selected, to compete in the Young Grower of the Year competition which will be held in Cromwell on August the 27th/28th, (all travel costs will be covered).
11. The contestant agrees that if they win Young Grower of the Year they will be available to compete in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project and the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.
12. The winner is expected to be available for promotional purposes and to participate in media interviews as required at and following the event.
13. Placegetters will be required to promote the competition where applicable.
14. Contestants agree that images and recorded footage may be used for competition publicity, promotions and social media.
15. The competition has an emphasis on practical production (on/ or close to orchard) skills and business skills associated with growing and industry knowledge. The term "grower" includes those involved in growing plus those roles closely associated with growing such as pack house and coolstore employees. This does not include service providers such as bankers and consultants.
16. Candidates can enter 2 years in a row - if they do not win in those 2 years, they have a 1 year stand down and can then enter again.
17. If a contestant wins the Regional final but does not win the National final, then can re-enter the competition.
18. If a contestant wins the Regional comp and then goes onto win the national final then they are not eligible to enter again.

