



Media release

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Young horticulturalists compete for top prize

Nine horticulturalists will compete in the Bay of Plenty Young Fruit Horticulturist of the Year regional competition this Thursday.

The competition is in its second year with a total of 26 regional competitions taking place around the country in a total of nine different sectors (fruit, vegetable, amenity, landscaping, floristry, cut flowers, viticulture, nursery and arboriculture). The competition is open to anyone under the age of 31.

The Bay of Plenty competition, which is being sponsored by Ballance Agri-Nutrients, will determine one of four regional finalists in the fruit growing sector who will go on to compete at the Horticulture New Zealand Conference in August.

The overall winners of the nine different sectors will then go on to compete for the HortFertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year title at the Ellerslie Flower Show on November 17.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients' Horticulture Specialist Jo Honey is pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile competition, dedicated to celebrating the achievements of young horticulturalists in the area.

"It's really exciting for us to be able to show our support for the horticulture industry, specifically fruit growers who play a big part in the community. The best thing of all is that by supporting this we are encouraging young people to further their career in the industry."

The nine Bay of Plenty finalists will complete six practical activities during the day and in the evening will be asked to give a three minute speech on a topical horticulture issue. The winner will receive \$1,000 cash as well as a number of other products and prizes and will go on to compete at the Horticulture New Zealand Conference in August.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients is supporting the Bay of Plenty competition and the Pukekohe regional competition which is being held in August.

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