

you wish to purchase a property in Central Hawkes Bay. It should help guide to you to what crops should grow well for that particular area.

Some people also install small temperature loggers at the site they are looking to purchase. HortPlus sells a range of these loggers very cheaply, together with environmental shields that help protect from direct sunlight. Frequently these data sets are incomplete for a site and will have gaps in the data. This can be frustrating when you are trying to do a seasonal comparison. In the past, we have found that comparing your logger against a logger in a region of interest is very useful and overcomes the problem of incomplete data. An example of this is shown in figure 2.

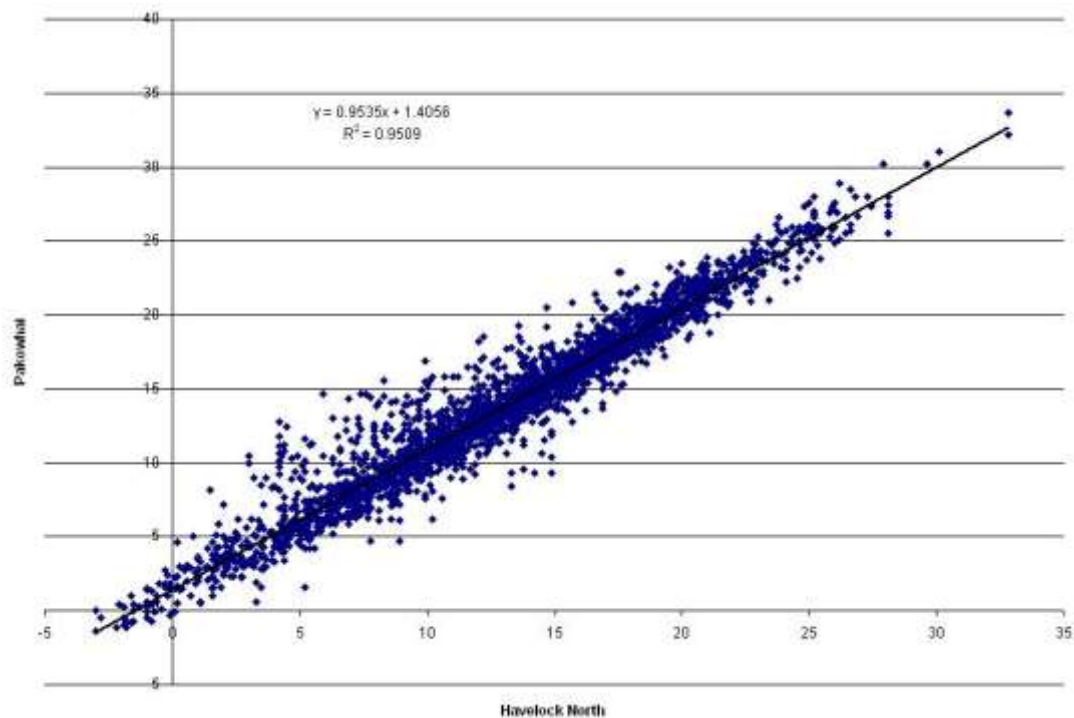


Figure 2

In this figure we are comparing temperatures at Havelock North and Pakowhai weather stations. We just need to plot the individual hourly temperatures against each other. We have found in the past a close correlation between how warm it is at one place compared to another. In this example, focus on the zero degrees at Havelock North. It shows that the temperature at Pakowhai will be about 1.5 degrees celcius. From this we can say that the Pakowhai site should be less frosty than Havelock North.

We can also look at the temperatures above 20 degrees. It seems that the Havelock North site is about the same as the Pakowhai site. Therefore, we can expect mid summer peak temperatures to be about the same. Be careful with this though because it does change during the year and how close you are to the sea will affect the results. During mid summer we can expect peak temperatures to be lower in sites closer to the sea. This is mainly mediated by mid day sea breezes.

If you are looking at a site, it also pays to talk to the local people. They will have a good idea of the weather of the Region. Central Hawkes Bay for example can experience a frost as late as Christmas Day. By pouring over long term records you would see this but, it does take some time. Much better to have a talk with a local farmer about the weather. I am sure they will always oblige. Farmers and the weather seem like good partners.

As always, if you need more help you can always email us. We would be glad to help. Our email addresses are:

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