

Subject: Submission to Extreme Weather Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 16 January 2013 2:34:14 PM

I am very concerned about climate change.

As a keen gardener I have noticed changes in some of my plants. Both apple trees and plum trees seem to have forgotten when to flower. In the last five years both have had flowers and ripe fruit on them at the same time, which should never happen: flowering normally precedes fruiting, not accompanies it. This means that if the trees do not also flower in spring, or they continue to flower when the necessary pollinizer is not in flower, no fruit can set.

Long term this could cause havoc: if plants and trees forget when to flower and only flower at the wrong times there will be far less food available. Trees used to flower at the correct time, when the appropriate insects were around to do the job of pollinating the crops. With a growing global population our peoples cannot afford this to happen. (Note: I now have four different plum trees which are meant to cross fertilise, but this year have had less than a dozen fruit set on these trees in total, not per tree.)

While this might seem a trivial matter at the moment, it could simply be a sign of what to expect in the future.

Eileen Ray