

US avocado grower picks BOP

The desire for surety of water supply played a significant part in the decision of US avocado grower and former commercial airline pilot Don Rodee to redevelop a Katikati dairy farm into one of the Bay of Plenty's largest avocado orchards.

Just under 7,500 Hass (41 ha) avocado trees are now planted on the 64 ha property which occupies the seaward end of Matahui Point, just a few kilometres south of Katikati. With Tauranga Harbour surrounding 2.2 km of the orchard's boundaries, the potential for salt and wind damage to the one to four-year-old trees is high, but Don takes a positive attitude to that aspect of the property. "Until the shelterbelts are better established, wind and salt could have an impact on the trees sure, but it could also mean the trees don't ultimately grow so physically big, which is actually good long-term."

Having established that the Matahui Road property had the right contour ... "almost flat to allow easy picking with hydraladas when the trees get bigger" ... Don's next requirement was abundant water supplies. "We have a well on the property, the Bay of Plenty naturally gets plenty of rainfall, there is a sound district water supply and we also have access to run-off water, so we've got that aspect well covered."

Compare options for irrigation water on the Matahui orchard with Don's 3.5 ha avocado property in Fallbrook, north of San Diego, California.

"We are in our eighth year of drought in California with just three-and-a-half inches of rain this year. We pay to import water from other states, like Colorado, but we have access only to water not allocated to urban populations, so it's expensive and limited in volume. I can clearly see the writing on the wall regarding future access to water for horticulture," says Don.

"Fallbrook is – perhaps 'was' is more accurate – the self-designated 'avocado capital of the universe', but with the cost of water, plus the cost of labour and the land being worth so much for development into lifestyle sections, I think avocado growing is limited in California. We've gone from exporting 20 per cent of our production to now having well over 50 per cent of avocados imported from overseas."

Don appears to be philosophical about these dramatic changes in the Californian avocado sector and is focused on turning his New Zealand orchard into a top producer.

"The season is quite early here which could be favourable for market returns, and I think this property could achieve 14 tonnes/ha. Right now, we've harvesting some fruit – just for local market – from our older trees. We've learned a few things during the development of this property and have adopted some different planting patterns and techniques for the 4,500 trees we planted this season, which I think will benefit their establishment significantly."

Don's orchard manager John Cotterell adapted an auger-drilled hole planting technique, adding metal tips to scrape and loosen the sides of the hole. "We're very happy with the way these nine-month-old trees are developing," says John.

Over the past year of John's involvement, shelterbelt species have also changed to predominately pine trees which handle the salt-laden winds much better than the gums and hedging plants originally selected.



American avocado grower Don Rodee has made a significant investment in New Zealand developing a 41 ha Katikati avocado orchard, now one of the largest in the Bay of Plenty

In this issue we look at:

- ✓ Silver Secateurs this month
- ✓ Flint registered for stonefruit
- ✓ Quantum Mist sprayers offer savings



SEASONAL ISSUES



4,500 Hass avocados were planted nine months ago to almost complete the Matahui Road orchard.



Checking out one of the young trees are (L-R) orchard manager John Cotterell, Fruitfed Supplies representative Graham Johnson and Cherie and Don Rodee

"With traditional 7x7 spacing, we were mowing five days a week last summer. So we locked up some blocks for hay which we've then used to mulch the trees. This year we planted in an 8x4 pattern, so now we mow down the long strips and weed-spray between the trees, which seems to be working well," says John.

The wind does limit opportunities for spraying. "In spring and summer we might get only an hour a day with the wind speed low enough to spray, so we'll probably need a couple of sprayers to ensure we can cover 41 ha of growing trees in short periods."

John and Don are working towards having Matahui Orchard exporting within a couple of seasons – "depending on fruitset" – and have an established relationship with Team Avocado, New Zealand's largest avocado exporter which made a significant impression on Don as he investigated the Kiwi avocado scene.

Don explains: "I was introduced to the New Zealand agricultural sector by some retired pilot friends; initially we looked at vineyards. I realised there was a very well organised avocado industry here – it had already been through some downs and was on the way up again.

"Team Avocado delivered a great briefing about the New Zealand industry, talking about the growing areas and cost of land, so I looked north of Tauranga and found this property."

Don says the New Zealand avocado industry aims to be larger so it can have more impact internationally. "It's all moving towards greater increases in efficiency which is why we have a large planting on easy contour land with ample water and good growing conditions. This will hopefully deliver a better return on investment." ❖

Powdery mildew is already active

The dreaded fungal spores of powdery mildew are already developing on crops.

Powdery mildew's microscopic spores are actively growing long before evidence is apparent to the naked eye. The white growth seen on leaves and stems – the clinical symptom of powdery mildew growing on plant tissue – will not usually kill a plant, but will certainly weaken it, having a dramatic effect on quality and yield.

What makes Kumulus DF New Zealand's preferred sulphur fungicide?

Kumulus DF is a well-established and trusted sulphur fungicide, used extensively for powdery mildew control in apples, grapes, tamarillos and various vegetable crops. It also controls rust in peaches, plums and nectarines.

- **Maximum fungicidal effect** – optimum range of particle sizes in the Kumulus DF micro-granular formulation is unique, providing excellent plant coverage, rapid vapour action, crop safety and a persistent preventative effect
- **Disperses rapidly in water**
- **Easily measured by volume**
- **Dust-free mixing** – free-flowing formulation is virtually dust-free for cleaner handling
- **Low smell packaging** – vacuum-sealed plastic bags reduce sulphur odours



- **Improved adherence** – contains a spreader/sticker for excellent adherence and rainfastness
- **Fungal protection** – Kumulus DF is a protectant fungicide for reliable control of powdery mildew and rust across New Zealand's unique growing conditions
- **Organic certification** – gained from Biogro New Zealand in May 2007
- Kumulus DF is also active against some mite species, notably Erinose on grapevines. Kumulus DF also acts as a plant nutrient, supplying sulphur.

For more information on Kumulus and its use in the spray programme, talk to your local Fruitfed Supplies representative. ❖

Kumulus DF is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No 3493.

Fruitfed Supplies puts together Blenheim expo

Marlborough growers get a unique opportunity to talk to a wide range of suppliers at the Fruitfed Supplies expo in Blenheim on 4 September this year.

Blenheim branch manager Richard Rutherford is co-ordinating the event, last run in 2002 with great success, and is looking forward to ensuring growers and farmers from around the region can enjoy an informative day in a relaxed setting.

"We hope to have around 75 companies who supply horticultural and agricultural products and services via Fruitfed Supplies and PGG Wrightson join us at the Blenheim stadium. This expo offers local growers a great chance to see new products, and discuss new developments and usage methods with the knowledgeable personnel from within our company and our suppliers," says Richard.

"It's a great way for us to give something back to our clients and the wider community. Entry is free, the barbeque team will be turning out hot food throughout the day and we've got some great competitions running for expo visitors."

The expo also features a series of topical and relevant seminars presented by industry experts, and alongside the horticultural and agricultural suppliers, a small number of real estate, boat and car sales and harvesting equipment exhibitors will be present.

Any organisations interested in exhibiting at the Blenheim expo should get in touch with Richard promptly – email: richard.rutherford@fruitfedsupplies.co.nz or via the branch on (03) 578-5389. ➔



The Blenheim Fruitfed Supplies expo brings together a wide range of suppliers for local growers to talk to in a relaxed informative setting

FRUITFED SUPPLIES BLENHEIM EXPO

- Tuesday 4 September 2007
- 11:00am to 6:00pm
- The Stadium, Kinross Street, Blenheim

Positive feedback from Fieldays

Occupying a portion of the extensive PGG Wrightson stand at this year's Fieldays at Mystery Creek, Fruitfed Supplies' Hastings branch merchandise sales supervisor Craig Williams says the feedback from show visitors was very positive.



Cam Watts from Cambridge and Craig Williams from Hastings on the Fruitfed Supplies stand at Fieldays in June

"Our display focused on commercial pruning and frost fighting equipment," says Craig. "It's a great opportunity to showcase the industry's top pruning equipment to a large and interested audience. Fruitfed Supplies has long represented some of the world's best horticultural equipment suppliers and a great deal of interest was shown in the French-made battery-powered Electrocoup pruners and the top-quality German-made Löwe range of secateurs and loppers. Löwe recently appointed Fruitfed Supplies as its exclusive distributor in New Zealand."

Craig says the French-made Bahco ergo by-pass secateur also attracted significant interest. "It's the world's first truly ergonomic secateur suitable for commercial and home garden use and is designed to effectively reduce pruning-related occupational overuse syndrome injuries."

Supporting the Fieldays' theme of 'traceability', Craig observed many exhibitors offering very interesting products and processes to assist farm-to-fork traceability requirements.

"Feedback showed that it's important for Fruitfed Supplies to be seen promoting our expertise in the horticultural sector and showing the public that we are now part of the larger PGG Wrightson group with our own brand and identity intact." ➔

Silver Secateurs this month



Saturday 25 August sees the national finals of the Silver Secateurs grape vine pruning competition take place at Villa Maria Estate in Montgomerie Road, Mangere, Auckland.

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Fruitfed Supplies values its involvement with this well-respected competition. "As the significant participant in the New Zealand wine industry, we recognise that excellent standards of grapevine pruning play an important part in the production of the quality wines for which New Zealand is known," says Murray Ross, general manager of Fruitfed Supplies.

Go to www.bragato.org to download the Silver Secateurs brochure. ➔





Flint new tool against stonefruit brown rot

Flint, a vital tool in the apple growers' black spot arsenal, is now available for use in stonefruit.

A mesostemic fungicide, Flint was recently granted a label claim for the control of brown rot in stonefruit (except cherries) for application over flowering.

Flint acts as a protectant, affecting spore germination and penetration of blossoms. Once dried, the active ingredient is 'locked on' and into the plant tissue making it very resistant to rainfall. Flint also has a localised vapour action which redistributes the active ingredient after application helping protect unopened and partially opened flowers.

Applied over flowering, Flint gives excellent protection against brown rot infection. Follow with a pre-harvest programme of Folicur® or Rovral® Gold to ensure a disease-free harvest.

Flint is the first strobilurin fungicide available to New Zealand growers for use in stonefruit. It has a different mode of action from currently used stonefruit fungicides therefore making it a useful resistance management tool.

Talk to your Fruitfed Supplies representative about Flint for stonefruit this season. ➡

Flint is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No P5112 and approved pursuant to the HSNO Act 1996, No HSR000642.

® registered trademarks of Bayer

New insecticides coming from DuPont

The world's oldest science company, DuPont, is bringing new insect control technology to New Zealand next year called Rynaxypyr™.

Philip Rollinson, DuPont global portfolio manager for insecticides, was in New Zealand recently to discuss a number of new horticultural products based on the active ingredient Rynaxypyr.

With two products due for release late next year, growers of pipfruit, stonefruit and grapes can look forward to a new level of control for codling moth, oriental fruit moth and leafroller, while vegetable growers will access a similar leap in controlling diamondback moth, white butterfly and looper caterpillar says Rollinson.

Another new highly active insecticide will follow Rynaxypyr with Rollinson saying the products are "world-changing actives we are bringing to the market".

DuPont's New Zealand crop protection manager Paul Dunn says he's in no doubt that the new products powered by Rynaxypyr would have just as significant an impact on New Zealand horticulture profitability as have the company's previously introduced insecticides Lannate, Vydate, Steward and Avaunt.

"We are particularly excited that the company has picked New Zealand for early introduction of this technology. It's a signal of the company's regard for the international importance of New Zealand horticulture," adds Paul. ➡



DuPont's Philip Rollinson (second from left) met with the Fruitfed Supplies' Auckland team while in New Zealand recently. Philip is pictured with (L-R) category manager Peter Merson, technical manager Ken Jeffery, general manager Murray Ross and DuPont's New Zealand crop protection manager Paul Dunn

ASPARAGUS



The new harvesting season is just around the corner. Growers need to be focusing on completing a range of **pre-harvest tasks** to ensure the beds are in top shape ready for the new season.

Reminders for August:

- ✓ If a **soil test** has not been done in the last 2-3 years, it should be done now and any fertiliser required should be applied.
- ✓ **Residual herbicides** should be applied prior to spear emergence. Select the appropriate herbicide(s) to control the weeds present in the beds.
- ✓ If **Phytophthora spear rot** was present in the bed last season, Ridomil Gold MZ should be applied before harvest starts.
- ✓ A **root sample** taken now and measured to determine carbohydrate levels will assist in harvest management through the use of Crop & Food Research's AspireNZ.

AVOCADOS

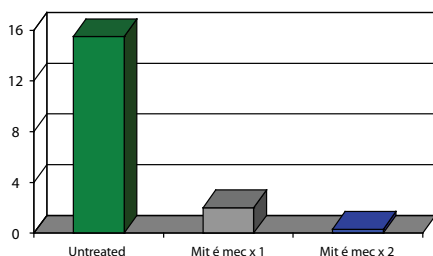


Reminders for August:

- ✓ Approaching harvest, be aware of **withholding periods** (pre-harvest intervals) when spraying, especially for fruit destined for the USA, Asian or European markets. Short PHI's favour the use of Mit é mec for six spotted mite control, Success Naturalyte for leaf roller control and Calypso or Malathion for greenhouse thrips control.
- ✓ **Foliar nitrogen**, e.g. Yara Safe-N or low-biuret urea, may need to be applied to remedy nitrogen deficiencies that often show as yellowing foliage through winter and into spring. Ensure only true low-biuret urea is used as a foliar spray, to reduce risk of phyto-toxicity from biuret. Magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts) may be added to assist leaf re-greening also.
- ✓ If **soil tests** have not yet been taken, it is not too late. The information gained from these is extremely useful for designing the coming season's fertiliser programme. If **base fertiliser** applications (including lime or gypsum) have not yet been made, following soil and leaf test analysis, these may be made this month. Recommended spring boron, nitrogen or Fruitfed Avocado Mix applications should start next month.

As weather starts to warm in spring, keep an eye out for **six spotted mite, leaf roller and greenhouse thrips**, especially on those blocks carrying a crop ready for harvest. Six spotted mite in particular should be controlled pre-flower if present, to reduce the risk of population explosions during the flowering period (see graph). To ensure you have the best information for crop management decisions, structured crop monitoring should be used. Please contact your local branch for information on Crop Monitoring Services.

Number of SSM per leaf in early February, following December application of Mit é mec
(Fruitfed Supplies Trial, 2002)



BRASSICAS



Cultivate and **bury old crops** to reduce disease pressure in new plantings. Avoid applying excess nitrogen as this nutrient promotes vegetative growth which can make conditions within the crop canopy more favourable to diseases such as bacterial head rot.

CITRUS



Reminders for August:

- ✓ If controlling **lemon tree borer** by pruning out infested material, or re-shaping trees through pruning, August is the last opportunity to do this for the winter. Pruning trees from September onwards, when lemon tree borer adults are flying, may result in infestation as the adults are attracted to the fresh cuts.
- ✓ **Greenhouse thrips** may continue to be an issue on some varieties (see photo) – monitor for presence and control if thresholds are exceeded.
- ✓ **Citrus whitefly** is proving to be a difficult pest to control in many regions. We would be interested to hear from growers facing this problem throughout the country. NZCGI is planning trials this season to develop effective controls – we will keep you informed as information comes to hand.
- ✓ **Base fertiliser** applications may need to be made, depending on soil and leaf test results from the last season, together with expected cropping information for the coming season. Your Fruitfed Supplies representative receives ongoing training in making fertiliser recommendations. Please contact them if you require assistance with planning your fertiliser requirements.



Feeding damage from greenhouse thrips

GRAPES



Reminders for August:

- ✓ **Avoid pruning** when rain is imminent and apply a suitable wound dressing soon after cuts are made. If **Eutypa lata** has been diagnosed in your blocks, then burn the prunings of infected vines.
- ✓ **Agitate all drums** of spraying oil prior to use to ensure the emulsifier is well mixed with the oil. Also check that the emulsifier is present in the oil before application.
- ✓ When combining **oil with insecticides** in a spray tank, remember to add the oil last, when the tank is nearly full. Make sure the spray is agitated throughout the mixing process.

Late dormant to bud-burst is a key time to control **mealy bug** populations while they are in more susceptible immature stages and there is minimal foliage cover to allow better penetration of insecticides. Use the previous crop monitoring harvest assessment result from last season to determine if insecticide applications are warranted. If your vineyard block has a history of **grape leafroll virus (GLRV)**, then an insecticide should be applied if any mealy bugs were recorded. In the absence of GLRV, a threshold of 3% infested bunches should be used.

TECH-KNOW TIPS

Tokuthion (an organophosphate), Applaud or Ovation (insect growth regulators) can be used for mealy bug control. Tokuthion should be applied at late dormant, while the two IGRs can go on from bud-burst (not past flowering). Coverage is critical for effective control of these cryptic insects and high volume spraying is recommended. Please contact your local Fruitfed Supplies technical field representative to discuss any of these issues in greater detail.

KIWIFRUIT

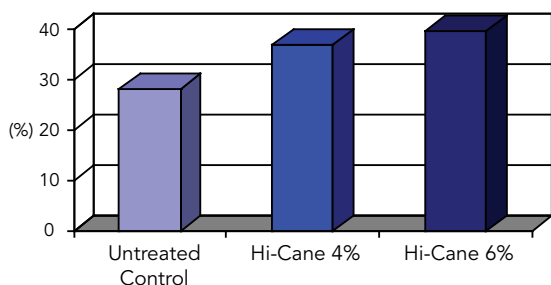
Reminders for August:

- ✓ To reduce potential hiding places for scale infestations, **lichen** should be removed by applying Graphic Biocide or lime sulphur after Hi-Cane applications, but before budbreak, i.e. before any green tissue is present.
- ✓ **Base fertiliser** applications may be made this month. These fertiliser applications should be based on leaf and soil tests taken over the last 12 months, along with historical data for each block. If you require assistance planning your fertiliser requirements, please contact your Fruitfed Supplies representative.

Hi-Cane applications should be made on Hayward during August. Please read the label carefully and take note of all relevant safety precautions. In years or regions with relatively poor winter chill accumulation, higher rates of Hi-Cane (6%) and later applications tend to give best effects.

Growers can also calibrate sprayers this season using air-inclusion (AI) nozzles and apply Hi-Cane with **DriftStop**, a proprietary surfactant. Recent detailed research by Zespri has shown this combination to greatly reduce spray drift during application, without compromising efficacy. Please note that this work has not been carried out with alternative hydrogen cyanamide formulations or other surfactants and as yet, there is no recommendation for use of AI nozzles for crop protection applications after bud-break. Your Fruitfed Supplies representative has experience and several resources to assist with correct Hi-Cane application rates, use of DriftStop, application method and timing. Please contact them for assistance.

Percentage Budbreak on 26/11/03
(Fruitfed Supplies Research Trial)



LETTUCE

Maintain a protective fungicide cover for **downy mildew**. In high risk conditions the systemic activity of Acrobat may improve control.

Maintain the **nutrient balance** of the plant to reduce its susceptibility to disease (seedlings deficient in potassium are more susceptible).

ONIONS



Early onion crop management focuses on **weed control**. Onions are weak competitors, and are susceptible to competition from weeds. Good weed control early in the growth of the crop will help to get the plants well on the way towards a good yield. Two applications of a mix of Flag® FI, Chloro IPC and Peptoil™ Crop Oil are recommended to continue the weed control fight started at planting. The first application should go on at the flag stage and the second at 1-2 true leaves.

Other management actions during this period may include applying Prolific® for **botrytis control**. This may be needed if plants are damaged by weather (frost, high winds, or hail), as this creates entry points for botrytis.

PIPFruit



Reminders for August:

- ✓ Apply **copper sprays** to assist control of fireblight, black spot, blast and European canker. If using Bordeaux, apply at least 14 days after lime sulphur. Also ensure copper is applied at late dormant stage on apples to minimise risk of russet.
- ✓ All drums of **spraying oil**, especially if they are stock carried over from a previous season, should be agitated or rolled prior to mixing to ensure that the emulsifier are well mixed with the oil. Test first by adding a small amount of oil into water to ensure the emulsifier is active.
- ✓ When combining **oil spray with insecticides**, remember to add the oil last, when the spray tank is nearly full, with the agitator going, or while circulating through the pump bypass.
- ✓ If **mealy bug** is present or monitoring thresholds were exceeded at harvest, the application of Applaud plus Oil at late dormant is highly recommended.
- ✓ If **San Jose scale** is present or if monitoring thresholds at harvest were exceeded, the application of a late dormant application of oil + Applaud is highly recommended for the control of scale. Our research has identified host shelter trees to be a major source of wind-blown crawlers.
- ✓ If **woolly apple aphid** problems were experienced in the previous autumn, it is critical to apply an oil + Pirimor at late dormant.
- ✓ It is vital to **protect new emerging leaves** with a suitable fungicide, which have a very small surface area but are extremely susceptible to the disease pathogen black spot.

If **base fertiliser applications** have not been made, following soil test analysis, these should be made this month. If your pH was low, lime and /or gypsum applications should also be carried out now, if not already completed.

A number of growers experienced mite out breaks last season. Winter pruning will have allowed you the opportunity to observe the level of **European red mite** eggs laid by the late summer generation and to determine if further monitoring is required. The European red mite over-winters as dormant eggs, which are onion-shaped, dark red and laid in dense clusters on the lower surface of branches and twigs of trees in late summer.

The threshold for an oil application is determined in the winter by searching for European red mite eggs on 2-3 year old wood. If 30% or more branch nodes are infested with five or more ERM eggs, apply a late dormant oil

application. If heavily infested with ERM eggs then apply Gemini + Oil to infested trees.

Gemini has direct contact activity on over-wintering eggs of ERM and TSM and has a long residual life on wood. Gemini is compatible with integrated mite production based on *Typhlodromus pyri*, *T. occidentalis*, *P. persimilis* or *A. fallacis*. Do not apply more than once per year. Resistant strains of ERM have been recorded in New Zealand in a few very localised areas. However, if you have resistant strains do not apply this product.



European red mite eggs

POTATOES



The bacterial disease, **black leg**, can occur at any stage of crop development. Infection prior to crop emergence can lead to 'blanking' where plants fail to emerge. But more typical symptoms are after emergence when the pathogen attacks the stems and slimy black lesions appear. If the lesion girdles the stem, it will die, as will whole plants if all the stems are infected.

Infections come from infested soil or seed. Cool, wet soils at planting, followed by warm temperatures after emergence can lead to black leg infections early in crop growth, while lush, dense canopies and long periods of wet foliage favour infection later in growth.

Plant clean seed and use careful nutrient and irrigation management to avoid excessive canopy growth. Applications of protectant copper fungicides will provide some control, but they will struggle if disease pressure is high.

SUMMERFRUIT



Reminders for August:

- ✓ It is important to achieve early season control of **leaf curl**. Apply Mizar Granuflo at the bud swell period.
- ✓ When using copper to help control **bacterial canker**, full rates of copper should be applied during the late dormant to early bud swell period.
- ✓ All drums of **spraying oil**, especially if they are stock carried over from a previous season, should be agitated or rolled prior to mixing to ensure that the emulsifier are well mixed with the oil. Test first by adding a small amount of oil into water to ensure the emulsifier is active.
- ✓ When combining **oil spray with insecticides**, remember to add the oil last, when the spray tank is nearly full, with the agitator going, or while circulating through the pump bypass.
- ✓ To control **green peach aphid**, the application of a late bud movement oil + insecticide, e.g. Pirimor, timed for egg hatch is vital. Early season applications of insecticides are less likely to have an adverse impact on natural enemies.

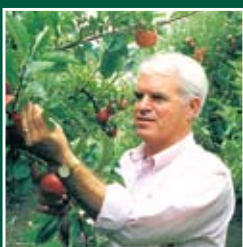
It is important to achieve early season control of **leaf curl**. If left until bud burst has commenced, it may be too late to prevent disease establishment. Like many disease pathogens, leaf curl is triggered by cool rain and can occur at any time new leaf is present. The fungus over-winters as ascospores or thick-walled conidia on the tree. Dissemination is only by water. These ascospores are extremely hardy and researchers have found that they can survive several months of hot dry weather.

Traditionally copper sprays have been applied prior to bud movement to control leaf curl. In more recent years Fruitfed Supplies research has confirmed that Mizar Granuflo is a superior leaf curl fungicide.

Note: Mizar is not compatible with copper sprays.



Leaf curl



Ken Jeffery – contributes for pipfruit and summerfruit.



Tim Herman – contributes for brassicas, onions, potatoes, squash and tomatoes.



Richard Bawden – contributes for avocados, citrus and kiwifruit.



Paul Hassan – contributes for grapes.

Quantum Mist sprayers offer efficiency gains

In the ever-expanding Waipara region, the 364 ha Waiata Vineyard now has 323 ha of grapevines established after an initial 60 ha parcel was planted in 2005.

Waiata Vineyard has been developed by family-owned McKean Estates Ltd, which also has three vineyards in Marlborough, and last September took delivery of two of the first three-row Croplands Quantum Mist sprayer units to arrive in New Zealand.

Company founder and CEO Royce McKean says they looked at various options available locally, but, with significant areas of completely flat vineyards to cover, the aim was to obtain sprayers that offered the most efficient operation possible with current technology.

"We talked to other wineries in New Zealand and many were recommending Quantum Mist so the decision then became whether to get the over-row model that covers two rows in one run or the three-row version. We then visited a number of Australian wineries, including Brown Bros., and concluded that the three-row version provided the level of efficiency we were looking for," says Royce.

The real benefit of covering an additional row of vines with the three-row Quantum Mist set-up is, naturally, the speed with which spray can be applied to a block thus reducing both equipment running costs and operator hours says operations manager Ross Wright.

"With a property the size we're dealing with, saving approximately one-third on labour and running costs obviously helps profitability. That's where the economies of scale from this sort of property offer some real cost advantages."

Waiata Vineyard, which provides grapes under contract to Nobile and Villa Maria, is taking delivery of a new version of the Croplands three-row sprayer this spring.

"Croplands in Australia has done a lot of research into the Quantum Mist sprayer heads," says Royce. "This season we will be evaluating a new sprayer that should, in theory, be just as effective while allowing us to operate the sprayer with even greater efficiency."

As the vines planted in 2007 become established and a regular spray programme required for a vineyard of this size, the speed and efficiency of spray application will become ever more important for the Waiata team and Royce says they're looking forward to seeing how the new three-row sprayer copes with the expected workload. ➡



The three-row Quantum Mist sprayer is expected to offer Waiata Vineyard considerable time and labour savings

TECHNICAL FACTS

- The Quantum Mist three-row sprayer provides excellent coverage in the third row, which is only sprayed from one side per pass. Rather than relying on opposing high-speed air to create good turbulence in the canopy, each Quantum Mist fan achieves excellent coverage, independently of one another.
- Quantum Mist sprayers use less horsepower from the tractor to run, and therefore use less fuel than conventional sprayers.
- Quantum Mist grape sprayers are available with a range of tank sizes and configurations to suit any size of vineyard.
- They are available in New Zealand exclusively from Fruitfed Supplies.



Royce McKean (on right) talks with Croplands service agents during the delivery and set-up of the two Quantum Mist three-row sprayers for the Waiata Vineyard development in Waipara

SEASONAL REMINDERS

Soil tests - if you haven't completed soil tests for your orchard or vineyard yet, then it's still worthwhile getting these done within the next 2-3 weeks

Orchard-Rite wind machines - if you haven't had the maintenance service completed on your Orchard-Rite's engine yet, then contact your local service agent now to get this done before the risk of frost affecting new season's growth gets more likely

Fruitfed Supplies

Facts is a monthly publication of Fruitfed Supplies. Feedback to the editor is welcome. Please contact Kate Gordon, Relish Communications, c/o PO Box 2116, Auckland, email: kate@relishcomm.co.nz or mobile 021 587 227. Subscription details and address updates, please phone Fruitfed Supplies national office on 09 448 0510.

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