

## Future growth from Fruitfed management changes

*The first day of October sees a number of staff changes officially take place within the Fruitfed Supplies team.*

Refinements to the structure of PGG Wrightson's supply chain team sees Fruitfed Supplies general manager Murray Ross take up a new role in Christchurch to head this team which has overall responsibility for rural and horticultural product supply for the company.

Murray says just on 40 years with Fruitfed, the move to Christchurch brings some changes but he will continue to enjoy working with many of Fruitfed's suppliers and staff. "There are a lot of varied and interesting challenges in this new role which bring their own rewards, and my partner Carole and I are happy to move back to the South Island."

Hugh Martyn, PGG Wrightson group general manager rural services, announced that the company was delighted that Stephen Guerin would take over as Fruitfed Supplies general manager. "Stephen currently fulfils the responsibilities of commercial manager for the rural supplies and Fruitfed Supplies businesses," says Hugh. "He started with the company in 1988 and has held a number of management and operational roles."

Stephen says he's looking forward to continuing to develop the technical and Crop Monitoring Services components of the Fruitfed Supplies business.

"I believe these two services provided by Fruitfed Supplies, in particular, will continue to play an important role for growers, especially given the very tight regulations around export spray programmes for food safety that have come into play," says Stephen. "Also the ongoing development and training of staff to continually improve our knowledge around these and other issues, as well as our standards of service, is an important part of this role and I'm very much looking forward to a fresh focus on the Fruitfed Supplies business."

Currently the agricultural chemical category manager for Fruitfed Supplies, Peter Merson joins Murray Ross in the move to Christchurch to take on an expanded role as category manager responsible for agricultural chemicals for the rural supplies and horticultural business units.

Earlier in September, Damian Elliott took over as branch manager



*With a great deal of relevant industry experience, Damian Elliott took over as the Pukekohe branch manager in September*

*Continued on page 2.*



*Murray Ross heads to a new supply chain management role with PGG Wrightson in Christchurch after nearly 40 years with Fruitfed Supplies*



*Stephen Guerin steps into the Fruitfed Supplies general manager's role*

### In this issue we look at:

- ✓ Sustainability at Seifried Estate
- ✓ Fruitfed sponsors Champion Syrah in Air NZ Wine Awards
- ✓ New seasonal finance from PGG Wrightson
- ✓ Best practice advice on bee safety
- ✓ Celebrating the Silver Secateurs

# FRUITFED NEWS

*Continued from page 1.*

for the Pukekohe Fruitfed Supplies store. Formerly a regional manager with Elliott Technologies, Damian brings extensive experience in the horticultural sector to his new role.

Dion Potter has also joined the Pukekohe branch. Formerly a field representative with Fruitfed Supplies based in Manawatu, Dion then spent three years with global vegetable and fruit seed producer Seminis as a technical development specialist initially in the lower North Island, then moving to the South Auckland area to take on a national role as the company's glasshouse specialist. Dion also brings significant knowledge of the vegetable sector to his new field representative role with Fruitfed Supplies Pukekohe.

Neil Anderson, Fruitfed Supplies' northern region sales manager, says: "We are delighted to welcome Damian and Dion and feel sure the depth and breadth of their understanding of the horticultural chemical and vegetable sectors and the Pukekohe area will be much valued assets for the business."

Another staff member with a new role is Jean Corona. Having worked as a field representative specialising in crop nutrition products from the Kumeu branch, Jean's particular knowledge is being utilised on a wider scale in the recently-developed position as the national nutrition advisor based at the Fruitfed head office in Albany.

Jean has already visited a number of Fruitfed branches with his new responsibilities in mind. "The main aim is to add value for our clients by sourcing the products they need for sustainable responsible crop nutrition. We seek to more firmly establish Fruitfed Supplies as a leader in the crop nutrition market."

Prior to joining Fruitfed Supplies in Kumeu, Jean worked as specialist fertigation representative for a fertiliser company in South Africa (see Facts, March 2006). Jean's expertise with fertigation saw him often travelling to other branches to share this knowledge with clients and Fruitfed staff. "So, I will continue these branch visits in a more structured way, conducting product training sessions and consulting with clients and reps on specific projects," says Jean. "The great thing is that our reps are already knowledgeable about many aspects of plant nutrition, so we can work together to build and enhance that level of understanding around the finer points of fertigation, product choice and how best to help a grower achieve their goals."

Jean's appreciation of the responsible application of fertilisers is in line with current moves to more sustainable cropping practices. "We're looking at 'just in time' application of nutrients, where the specific nutrients required by the plant at that particular growth phase are delivered in a readily-used form. Rather than a broadcast, blanket application of fertiliser which may result in nutrients leaching into waterways and other similar issues, the application of required nutrients at the correct time for the crop phenology is designed to increase quality of yield and minimise input costs."

Jean has begun a project to collect current nutrition data from suppliers and collate this into formats directly applicable at branch level.

One of the trends Jean has already observed in grapes is that the application of too much nitrogen before or at senescence causes cells to elongate, which then makes them more easily damaged by insects. "This kind of assessment of how nutrient application affects plant health is another aspect of how Fruitfed aims to continue to add value to the services we offer growers around the country," says Jean. ❖



*Formerly based at Fruitfed Supplies in Palmerston North, Dion Potter returns to the company as a field representative in Pukekohe*



*Jean Corona has a new role as the national nutrition advisor*



*Wayne Morrows from Coopers Creek receiving their prize from Craig Lamb of Fruitfed Kumeu*

## Vinevax promotion winners



Jason Sail and the team at Fruitfed Supplies Kumeu congratulate the winners of their recent Vinevax promotion. Each Vinevax purchase gave the buyer another chance to one of three 12V Travel Cooler and Warmer bags. The winners were Omaha Bay Vineyards, Coopers Creek Vineyard, and Putaki Bay Vineyards. ❖

# Sustainability important at Seifried Estate

*Last year Nelson's well-known Seifried Estate was the first winery in the region to achieve 'sustainable winegrowing' status, a standard that requires continual attention to maintain.*

The family-run, award-winning winery has long had a holistic approach to grape growing and winemaking, and a focussed twelve-month effort saw the team's ability to make choices to work in a more sustainable manner recognised by Sustainable Winegrowing NZ.

"Attaining sustainable winegrowing status is a rigorous and ongoing process to assess the way our business is run. From the vineyard, to staffing issues and machinery operation, as well as water and energy use and winemaking procedures, we are now more aware of how the choices we make have a flow-on effect on the environment," says Heidi Seifried who makes the wines alongside her brother Chris, from the grapes produced by their father, Hermann.

One aspect of Seifried's business where products purchased from Fruitfed Supplies have a particular impact on firstly attaining, and then maintaining, the sustainable winegrowing status is the supply of winemaking additives.

"We're looking for verification of product quality, and surety and promptness of supply," says Heidi. "The traceability aspects are particularly important for certification as a supplier under market protocols from organisations like the British Retail Corporation and EUREPGAP (now called GLOBALGAP)."

Heidi says in the 'old days' a supplier could pretty much turn up at the cellar door with a brown paper bag saying it contained cream of tartar and that would be that. "What guarantee would you have of the quality, its source, use-by date, or anything?" Fruitfed Supplies provides full documentation for all winemaking chemicals, ensuring accurate and auditable records can be maintained.

Just as viticultural practices like spraying by the calendar rather than according to pest or disease pressures have changed, so winemaking practices have changed. "Products were often added almost according to a formula by variety. Now we test a lot more throughout the process to determine what additives are required. Then we'd add a little bit, wait a few days, test again and only add more if needed. This is definitely more in line with sustainable winery protocols."

Another step the Seifried team has taken in terms of sustainability is to review the use of additives such as diatomaceous earth, used to filter developing wine batches. "There are other more sustainable options, such as enzymes to clear the wine, which mean (a) the wine doesn't need to be pumped from one tank to another which saves energy and doesn't 'bruise' the wine, and (b) we don't have to dispose of the used dichotomous earth which can be quite nasty for staff to handle," concludes Heidi. ➡



*Heidi Seifried, assistant winemaker for Seifried Estate, with Jonny Richards of Fruitfed Supplies of Fruitfed Supplies Richmond.*

Fruitfed Supplies offers a wide range of commonly used and specialised winemaking products. A full product list is available from your local Fruitfed Supplies branch.



## Fruitfed to sponsor Champion Syrah

Fruitfed Supplies will sponsor the Champion Syrah category in the 2007 Air New Zealand Wine Awards and the new general manager Stephen Guerin says the Fruitfed team is very pleased to continue their support for New Zealand's premier wine awards. The 2007 category winners will be announced at the awards dinner in Christchurch on 24 November. More information is available on [www.airnzwineawards.co.nz](http://www.airnzwineawards.co.nz). ➡

### **CORRECTION: Composition of Fruitfed general citrus mix**

In last month's Facts we inadvertently gave the incorrect nutrient breakdown for the Fruitfed general citrus mix. The correct figures are 12.7% nitrogen, 5.1% phosphorus and 5.4% potassium. The figures given for the Fruitfed Lemon and Zero-K mixes were correct. Our apologies for any confusion this has caused.





## Pollen Plus offers alternative

*The concept of artificial pollination has been a commercial reality for several years, but the effectiveness and quality are improving and the costs are coming down largely due to the considerable research efforts of the Bay of Plenty's Pollen Plus Ltd.*



With local and global distribution channels now established for its scientifically-bred kiwifruit pollen, Pollen Plus is another innovative business established by Steve Saunders who also runs Gro Plus Ltd, one of the largest independently-owned companies of its kind in New Zealand, representing 102 orchards and managing about 400 ha of kiwifruit and avocado plantings. Pollen Plus now has two pollen mills – one in Te Puna in the Bay of Plenty and another in Motueka – and pollen is sourced from male plants in conventional kiwifruit and male-only orchards.

Conscious of the current and possible future effects of the varroa mite on bee populations, Pollen Plus has been working with HortResearch to develop more economical ways of gathering pollen. Another project run in conjunction with Zespri and HortResearch, tagged 'Xenia', involves studying 23 male cultivars to assess the degree to which attributes inherited from the male parent, i.e. via the pollen, affect fruit size and dry matter.

Improvements in the pollen application process are contributing to the reduction in overall cost and the option to plant female-only orchards offer the further benefit of around ten per cent fruiting area, says Steve.

### AWARDS FOR POLLEN PLUS

Earlier this year, Steve Saunders and his Gro Plus and Pollen Plus teams received two awards in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. When presenting Steve with the Ballance Nutrient Management Award and the Gallagher Innovation Award, the assessors said: "Steve has carried out innovative experiments with rates of fertilisation, pollination rates and isolation techniques. He also shares his successes with others – and we really liked that."

"Even more cost effective pollination systems are yet to be realised." He adds: "Some orchards will continue to use beehives and these new initiatives are not designed to replace those, but to work in conjunction with, or give an alternative proven method of pollination if needed."

Pollen Plus offers a 'one stop' pollination service including the quality-tested pollen and application via wet or dry methods, as well as the supply of well-stocked beehives. Pollen Plus products are again available from Fruited Supplies stores nationwide. ⇨

## Seasonal finance now on offer

*Alongside two new rural supplies funding offers, PGG Wrightson Finance has developed a new seasonal funding facility specifically for horticultural clients of Fruited Supplies.*

North Island finance manager Ben Prain says the finance package is specifically for the use of horticultural inputs purchased from Fruited Supplies. "We are aware that there are times in the orchardist or vineyard owners' year when income is limited but crop requirements are high, so this flexible finance facility is ideal for those situations."

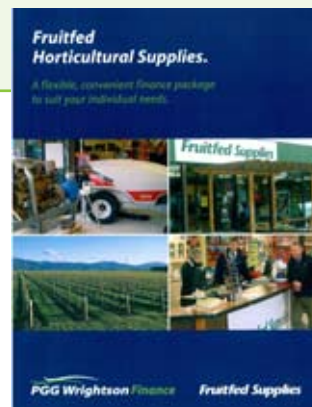
Credit limits of up to \$100,000 are available, subject to lending criteria, and loan draw-downs can be made as required.

The seasonal funding package requires only one page of

documentation – a new streamlined process for PGG Wrightson Finance – and can be managed via a grower's own Fruited Supplies representative.

"This facility is just one way that staff within PGG Wrightson, including Fruited Supplies, are striving to find tools and products that our clients find genuinely helpful," says Ben.

Talk with your Fruited Supplies representative about the seasonal funding facility for horticultural clients, as well as a new equipment finance facility that is now also available. ⇨



## 'In-furrow' application of Amistar delivers results

*The application of Syngenta's Amistar® via an 'in-furrow' process has proved a very reliable way to keep potato crops free of Rhizoctonia and silver scurf.*

The 'in-furrow' application process was a new technology that hadn't been seen before, says David Dunlop, upper North Island territory manager for Syngenta Crop Protection. "It's been particularly pleasing to see the excellent results growers around the Franklin region have achieved when they've adopted this new Amistar in-furrow technology," says David, who shared Syngenta's UK trial results with a number of growers and assisted them with the importation and fitting of UK-built Team 'dosatron' application units.

"We've been able to draw on the UK's experience with in-furrow application of Amistar. Many growers have utilised the Croplands "in-furrow" application kits available in 100L 2 row and 200L 4 row units to apply the Amistar solution as a spray around the potato tuber as it's planted, but certainly all the Kiwi growers who have invested in either the Croplands or Team 'dosatron' units have indicated a number of key benefits."

David summarises the benefits growers have told him they experienced after applying Amistar in-furrow to last season's potato crops:

- Excellent crop cleanliness, virtually free of *Rhizoctonia* and silver scurf
- No requirement to handle unpleasant, potentially hazardous dust treatments



*The unique application of Amistar as a spray around the tuber and soil as it's planted is the key to the product's ability to protect against Rhizoctonia and silver scurf*

- 'Dosatron' units extremely easy to use, virtually no nozzle blocking
- Very accurate delivery of Amistar into the furrow at planting
- No adverse affects on emergence
- More even crop emergence; faster growing, healthier crops

"We've seen an exponential increase in the use of Amistar in-furrow treatment and many more Team application units, both the 'dosatron' and specially-designed spray tanks, have been purchased. The importation and servicing of the units is now being handled by DOBMAC vegetable machinery specialists in Pukekohe.

"I've been told several times that the convenience factor of the Team chemical applicators are worth their weight in gold, so if you're thinking about adopting the proven Amistar in-furrow process this season, talk with your Fruitfed Supplies representative now about how to make the most of this new technology." ⇨

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## Actara in-furrow controls aphids

*Syngenta has launched their proven insecticide Actara® as an additional 'in-furrow' treatment to provide long term aphid control in potatoes at planting.*



Unlike *imidacloprid* seed treatment, Actara, which contains *thiamethoxam*, does not delay crop emergence. A highly systemic insecticide, Actara stays active in the potato plant, protecting emerging shoots from aphid damage for 8-10 weeks from application.

Actara must be applied 'in-furrow', i.e. applied at planting as a 15-30 cm wide spray band directed into the furrow just before the tuber is covered with soil [rate: 4g per 100m of row].

Syngenta has worked in collaboration with Team Sprayers in the UK and Croplands in New Zealand to develop a range of application machinery and spray nozzle technology to apply both Actara and Amistar 'in-furrow'. Talk to your Fruitfed Supplies representative for more details. ⇨

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### KEY BENEFITS OF ACTARA IN-FURROW

- Long lasting aphid control
- No delay in crop emergence
- Healthier and more vigorous plants
- No double handling as with seed treatment
- Maximum yield and quality potential
- Compatible with Amistar 'in-furrow'

### REMINDER

#### RE: PRE-FLOWER SCALE CONTROL WITH ACTARA

With the withdrawal of diazinon from the KiwiGreen crop protection programme this season, a robust early season scale control schedule will be more important than ever. In past seasons, kiwifruit growers using Actara have been impressed with its ability to provide a high level of scale control for extended periods. Actara controls all three scale pests, is highly systemic, protects new growth and has enduring residual control.

## Be bee-safe ... and not sorry

*Dr David Steven from IPM Research Ltd in Takapuna contributes the following article on bee safety specifically for Facts.*

Practising bee safety should be second nature to fruit growers, since their livelihood depends on achieving good pollination, which in turn depends on honeybees. And best practice is simple, nothing fancy or complicated, so there is no excuse for getting it wrong.

In essence, it boils down to just two steps:

1. Don't spray open flowers if you can possibly avoid it, whether the flowers are on the crop, the shelter or the sward.
2. If you really do have to spray when your crop is flowering, use only chemicals that will not harm bees and apply these at times bees are not actively foraging.

For **kiwifruit growers**, spring is a critical time for early season pest control and also the time when most care is needed to prevent bee deaths. Flowering of Hayward, Hort16A, and avocados creates an extended period when bees may be present in and around your orchard. In early spring flowering willows can also be an important supply of nectar and pollen for hives.

Best practice for kiwifruit growers includes the following steps:

1. **Pre-flowering**, when scale control is crucial.
  - Watch out for flowering in the sward or shelter (especially willows) which could attract bees into the orchard from outside.

- Mow the sward a day before a spray is due.
- Before spraying shelter, which is needed only when it is a source of scales onto the crop, look for flowers, and if it is flowering delay the spray or use the bee-safe product, Calypso (see table).

### 2. During flowering

- **Sclerotinia**: if a spray is needed, apply only when bees are not actively foraging. All the fungicides allowed in the Zespri Crop Protection Programmes are bee-safe.
- **Leafrollers**: if a spray is needed, apply only when bees are not actively foraging. In preference, use a bee-safe product, for example Prodigy or a Bt product.
- **Scale**: if adding an allowed oil to your leafroller spray, you **must** not apply it while bees are foraging.

### 3. After fruit set

- Hives should be removed from orchards as soon as flowering is over to allow oil spraying to be carried out without risking harm to bees.
- All sprays: mow the headlands and sward the day before spraying.

Testing overseas has demonstrated the safety to honeybees of Calypso compared to other pesticides commonly used against armoured scales on kiwifruit before flowering, as shown by the very high figure for Calypso in

## Du-Wett, the super-spreader

*A proven performer, Du-Wett® delivers five to ten times better spread and coverage with grape sprays and Marlborough vineyard contractor, Dave King, says Du-Wett has an important role to reduce water usage.*

"The main feature is that Du-Wett keeps my water rates down and I can get much better coverage without having to increase water rates through the season as the crop canopy grows," says Dave who heads King Contracting Ltd which does an array of vineyard contract work and development in Marlborough.

"So adding Du-Wett to our grape sprays helps minimise our use of limited water resources in the region. It also indirectly helps by reducing diesel usage and therefore reducing our carbon footprint."

According to Dave, the costs of Du-Wett are negligible compared to the savings on extra diesel, time and maintenance spent with using higher water rates. "The savings and superior performance are both of great benefit to grape growers."

Dave adds: "I use Bond® Xtra in advance of adverse conditions to help improve the rainfastness of the fungicide as I would rather spray earlier to get the cover onto a grape crop than wait until after it's rained." ➔

DuWett® is a registered trademark of Elliott Technologies, Ltd. NZ

Bond® Xtra is a registered trademark of Loveland Products Inc.



**Du-Wett**  
SUPER-SPREADER

### KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Use Du-Wett with low volume spraying 400L/ha down to 200L/ha for best results.
- ✓ Du-Wett will ensure excellent coverage of flowers and bunches, however with forecasted wet weather use Bond Xtra instead for proven rain-fast persistence.
- ✓ Or use to optimise your key botrycide applications so they give the best all weather protection.

the table. Products containing buprofezin (Applaud, Ovation, Pilan, Mortar and Buprimax) are also safe to bees. Diazinon figures are included, since it can only be used before flowering this season. Calypso's bee-safety makes it the preferred product for scale control if there is any likelihood of bees being present during spraying.

This year, with the extra emphasis on achieving scale control on kiwifruit early in the season including immediately before and after fruit set, there is a need to take special care to avoid killing bees. Take care and look after the bees; you need them. ➡



**TABLE:** The amount of common scale pesticides needed to kill honey bees by contact action, expressed as nanogram per bee (The Pesticide Manual, 14th edition)

Chemical	Branded products	LD50 ng/bee
bifenthrin	Talstar, Venom	15
thiamethoxam	Actara	25
chlorpyrifos	Lorsban, Chlor-P, Defend, Pychlorex, Pyrinex, Toppel	70
diazinon	DEW, Diazonyl, Diazol	220
thiacloprid	Calypso	38,380

## Goëmar seaweed cream – enhancing NZ fruit crops

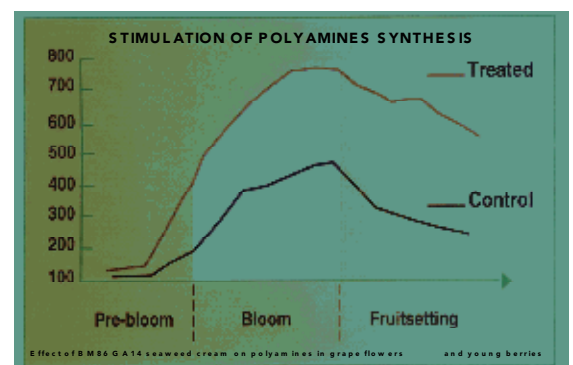
*International research demonstrates two key benefits for fruit crops from the application of the seaweed-derived product called Goëmar BM86 GA14, which is available exclusively from Fruitfed Supplies.*

Back in the 1970s, French laboratory Goëmar developed a process to preserve the active ingredients of algae found in seaweed growing off the Brittany coast. Now a leading seaweed biostimulant company, Goëmar has many years of research to attest to the benefits of applying their seaweed products to horticultural crops.

One of the company's key products – Goëmar BM86 GA14 (Goëmar Ascophyllum 14) seaweed cream – has two proven benefits when applied to foliage:

- 1. Stimulation of nutrition:** GA14's ability to stimulate the plant's metabolism to take up more available elements from the soil has been demonstrated during a trial at the Brest Institute for Marine Studies which showed that spraying the seaweed cream induced better nutrient absorption at root level and ensured the preferential diffusion of nutrients to the areas experiencing strong growth.
- 2. Polyamine composition:** Several years' trial work at the Plant Physiology Laboratory at Bordeaux University, which studies the mechanisms that manage pollination and fruit formation, demonstrates that BM86 GA14 seaweed cream optimises the synthesis of polyamines during the delicate flowering/fruit-set period, improving young fruit growth after setting. Polyamines are growth regulators existing naturally in plants, required in specific quantities for fruit-set and development.

These two parallel modes of action explain the practical effects of better quality flowering and fruit-set, higher fruit weight, and faster and more homogenous fruit development observed on many crops when Goëmar BM86 is applied. It has been available in New Zealand for four years and is typically used in grapes, cherries, strawberries, apples and stonefruit. ➡



## Lawn care franchise launched in Hawke's Bay

*The memorably-named Pimp My Lawn weed and feed lawn care service was launched in the Hawke's Bay earlier this year, and directors Nick Redman and Kate Bromley are delighted with the public response.*

A qualified greenkeeper, Nick already has a successful lawn construction business called Planet Turf, and the idea for a structured lawn maintenance service grew from client requests for someone to do more than simply mow the lawns under contract, says Kate.

The pair has developed a full year, four-step programme with 11 weed and feed treatments designed to maintain thick and vibrant lawns. At the initial visit, a pH test and soil sample is taken to ensure that the specific programme of treatment is tailored to the particular requirements of that site.

"Just a few months after launching the service we are now providing our services to Hawke's Bay residents with 80m<sup>2</sup> residential lawns to those with several thousand square metres of lawn," says Kate, formerly a director of a wine marketing company. "Many homeowners no longer have the time or inclination to maintain their own lawns the way they would like. Our professional service also means they don't need keep chemicals on their property."

Fruitfed Supplies and PGG Wrightson Turf are involved with the supply of specialist turf nutrition products from Andersons and also by assisting with identification of specific turf diseases.

With the objective of rolling out commercially-successful franchises around the country, the distinctive Pimp My Lawn van is already being seen in the Hibiscus Coast, north of Auckland, where another qualified greenkeeper Simon McKinnie has established the first franchise outside Hawke's Bay.

Nick and Kate are now working through the franchise model with the intention of developing another Pimp My Lawn region in around three months time. More information is available on [www.pimpmylawn.co.nz](http://www.pimpmylawn.co.nz). ♦



*Pimp My Lawn director Kate Bromley and Nick Redman*



*Out on the job, fertilising a client's lawn*

## Stick and spread sprays with Nufilm-17

*A completely natural product derived from pine resin, Nufilm-17 is a well-known sticking and extending agent suitable for use with a wide range of crop protection products.*

### KEY ATTRIBUTES OF NUFILM-17

- ✓ **Superior wetting action** – greatly reduces runoff at application and prevents re-wetting once dry
- ✓ **Spreading** – helps pesticide sprays penetrate and spread uniformly on hairy or waxy leaves
- ✓ **Sticking** – a superior natural adhesive, increasing the initial amount of pesticide deposited and also protecting spray residue from loss due to irrigation, rain, dew, leaf abrasion and wind erosion
- ✓ **Extender** – protects pesticides from rapid degeneration due to UV light breakdown, volatilisation or wash-off due to rain or irrigation, thus reducing the number of applications per season
- ✓ **Controlled release** – dries into an elastic film, encapsulating pesticide particles. Systemic chemicals move from the film into the plant tissue. Contact insecticides and fungicides are slowly released on the outside of the film for re-distribution and active pest control as the film naturally weathers. Foliar fertilisers move from the elastic film into the fruit or leaf tissue over an extended period of time, thus increasing the level of absorption
- ✓ **Protector** – dries rapidly into a waterproof film
- ✓ **UV protection** – acts as a sunscreen

Discuss how Nufilm-17 can aid your spray applications with your Fruitfed Supplies representative.



Exclusive to Fruitfed Supplies during September, October and November – receive a free wine cooler with every 20 litres of Nufilm-17 purchased.

## ASPARAGUS



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ **Inspect** asparagus beds regularly.
- ✓ Pests to look out for are **garden weevil**, **black beetle** (northern regions), **slugs and snails**.
- ✓ Diseases to watch for are **stemphylium leaf spot** (slightly sunken oval lesions with purple margins), **fusarium spear spot** (small, rusty-brown lesions on the tips of spear scales), and **phytophthora spear rot** (soft, watery lesions near the soil level). *Stemphylium* is more prevalent during warm, humid periods while *fusarium* and *phytophthora* are found in wet field conditions.



## AVOCADOS



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ **Foliar boron and zinc** (Bortrac and Zintrac) should be applied pre-flower for optimum efficacy. Timing is critical, so please check with your Fruitfed Supplies representative for optimum application timing and rates for your block.
- ✓ Prior to flowering, keep an eye out for **six spotted mite**, **leafroller** and **greenhouse thrips**, especially on those blocks carrying a crop ready for harvest, and control pre-flower if necessary. Six-spotted mite, in particular, can be a major issue during flowering; be aware that control of insect or mite pests during flowering is extremely difficult due to a lack of suitable options that are safe to bees.
- ✓ Observe **bee safety** when spraying prior to, during or post avocado flowering. Take special note of flowers on the orchard floor and neighbouring orchards in flower, as bees can travel long distances. If in doubt, please consult your Fruitfed Supplies representative for pest-control options.
- ✓ As avocados approach flowering, be aware of **tree health**. Plants that are under stress during the pre-flowering and flowering periods may set less fruit than those that are not stressed. Stress during this period can be caused by one (or more-likely a combination) of the following factors:
  - Low soil water reserve
  - Inadequate plant nutrition
  - Heavy current crop
  - Heavy flowering
  - Six spotted mite pressure
  - Cold temperatures
  - Phytophthora infection



Leafroller damage on fruit at harvest

## BRASSICAS



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Plant early crops in free-draining soils or raised beds to avoid **damping-off**. Healthy, vigorous plants are less susceptible to this disease complex.
- ✓ **Cultivate in residues of winter crops** when soil conditions allow to minimise carry over of pests and diseases.

## CITRUS



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Beware of increasing **greenhouse thrips** populations, particularly on oranges and tangelos, as damage may occur rapidly if populations are present heading into spring. **Armoured scale** insects may also first appear at this time. Keep an eye out also for **aphids**, particularly on young trees as new growth appears.
- ✓ Monitoring to determine control requirements allows justified use of agrichemicals, without the risk of unnecessary applications. For further details on **crop monitoring**, contact your nearest Fruitfed Supplies branch.
- ✓ The **fungicide** programme needs to be maintained up to and post-flowering to protect against **scab and melanose infection** of young shoots and fruitlets.
- ✓ With cool spring weather limiting nutrient uptake, **foliar fertilisers** such as Citrac should be considered, to promote strong flowering and fruit set. Timing is critical, so please check with your Fruitfed Supplies representative for optimum application timing for your block.



Citrus scab infection on young shoots and fruits

## GRAPES



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ If the **mealy bug** threshold was triggered last season, apply Applaud™. Remember that good timing is critical as this product has good activity on juvenile stages of the pest only.
- ✓ Sulphur covers applied in the early stages of crop development are important for **erinoise mite** control, as adult mites are relatively vulnerable as they move from buds to leaves. If erinoise mite was a problem last season, use the highest recommended label rate, apply on warm day (or the warmest part of the day) and ensure thorough coverage. Biocover LS™ Oil is also effective and can be used irrespective of temperature (follow label directions carefully).
- ✓ For growers who experienced **downy mildew** problems last season, it is vital to protect newly emerged growth this season. Regular applications of protectant fungicides, with activity against this disease, should be sprayed in anticipation of wet weather. Ensure good coverage.

# TECH-KNOW TIPS

**Powdery mildew inoculum**, in the form of conidia, is released from flag shoots soon after bud burst. These characteristically stunted and deformed shoots (see photo, flag shoot on right) are a result of the pathogen overwintering inside dormant buds and then rapidly colonising the emerging shoot's cuticular tissue as shoots emerge from buds. Unfortunately, even if flag shoots are not evident in your vineyard, control strategies cannot be ignored. Conidia are ubiquitous in the environment and therefore disease is a constant threat when conditions are conducive for infection.



For effective control of powdery mildew in the early part of the season it's important start your spray programme soon after bud break and to maintain a tight cover through till veraison. Powdery mildew is particularly sensitive to sulphur, due mainly to the toxic vapours that are released by the spray solution as it dries on foliage. However, temperature is highly influential to the amount of vapour released (more released at high temps) so try to avoid spraying sulphur on cold days or a cold part of the day. Products like Quintec™ and Biocover LS™ Oil are also effective against powdery mildew in the early part of the season, and work irrespective of temperature (follow label directions carefully).

Contact your local Fruitfed Supplies field representative for detailed recommendations on all aspects of early season pest and disease control.

## KIWIFRUIT



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Following changes to the Zespri Crop Protection Programme, growers need to focus on **pre-flower control of scale**. Effort should be made to identify any sources of scale outside the vines (shelterbelts for instance) and these should be sprayed before flowering. Two pre-flower applications of insecticide should then be made with preference being given to the chloronicotinyl chemistry (Actara or Calypso) as these products have the best efficacy and systemic activity within the plant. Calypso has an added advantage of excellent bee-safety, making it first choice for the period immediately prior to flowering. Consider also using a surfactant (or mineral oil such as DC Tron Plus) with pre-flower insecticide applications, to achieve best coverage and efficacy.
- ✓ Foliar fertilisers such as **Tracel Plus** are often used after bud break, as cold spring soil temperatures suppress nutrient uptake by the roots. Specially formulated seaweed fertilisers such as **SM6 Plus** or **Goëmar Calibra** should also be considered where growth is slow, or new leaf is damaged by cold temperatures, wind or frost.
- ✓ Beware of **potential frost events** following bud-break. Ideally, overhead water or Orchard-Rite wind machines should be utilised for



Pre-flower, the critical timing for optimum scale control

frost fighting. If these are not available, consider applications of low-biuret urea immediately prior to risk-periods to assist frost fighting. For further details on frost protection to best suit your situation, please contact your Fruitfed Supplies representative.

- ✓ **Supplementary pollination** should be considered over flowering, to improve fruit size and shape and reduce variability within a crop. Please contact your Fruitfed Supplies representative to discuss how this technology may best be used in your situation.

## ONIONS



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Remove any remaining **volunteer onions** in and around your crops NOW!
- ✓ Monitor young seedlings for maggots of the **onion fly**.
- ✓ Effective **white rot** control in onions requires a programme of 2-3 applications of Cereous at 3-4 week intervals, starting at 4 weeks after germination. Alternatively time the first application using HortResearch's white rot degree day model (contact your Fruitfed representative for help with this).
- ✓ Maintain a tight **weed control** programme to avoid repeat applications later in the season. Choice of herbicide depends on weed species present.
- ✓ Cool moist nights followed by high humidity warm days favour **downy mildew**. Apply a protectant fungicide, e.g. Dithane DF Rainshield, prior to favourable weather conditions.

## PIPFRUIT



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Remember that, at this time, new growth is expanding rapidly and extremely susceptible to **black spot**. Spray intervals should be adjusted according to weather conditions and aim not to exceed seven days.
- ✓ The use of a DMI fungicide such as Systhane is recommended during the high-risk period, open cluster to pink if over-wintering populations of **powdery mildew** are high.
- ✓ Apples and pears are at greatest risk of **fireblight** infection during the bloom period as the bacteria readily infect flowers. Control relies on the timing of strategic sprays preferably prior to infection periods.
- ✓ The correct timing for your first Regalis application for a **reduction in shoot growth** is vital in obtaining maximum results. Discuss rates and optimal timing with your Fruitfed representative.
- ✓ For **codling moth** regional biofix dates, monitor GDD bulletins on the PNZI web site for application timing for your district. The application of Prodigy at +80-120 GDD is recommended.
- ✓ On **russet-prone varieties** the application of Novagib will assist to reduce russet levels. Discuss rates and optimal timing with your Fruitfed representative.

During this primary infection period, ensure a **black spot** protectant programme is based on seven-day intervals to protect new evolving leaves and fruitlet surfaces. Peak black spot ascospore production occurs between mid/late September and late October/early November. However ascospores are also released between bud-break and mid-December. Most ascospores are released by day, with less than 1% discharged at night,

depending on climatic conditions of light, temperature and, in particular, rain. As little as 0.2mm of rain is sufficient to stimulate the release of ascospores.

The application of the strobilurin fungicides, e.g. Flint Star, over the critical early flowering and early fruitlet development period has become standard practice to control both black spot and powdery mildew both here and overseas. Local Fruitfed Supplies and European research has demonstrated the higher level of rainfastness of this strobilurin chemistry, a vital attribute during wet spring conditions which can produce severe infection periods.

Follow the FRAC resistance management guidelines for strobilurin chemistry: Strobilurins should be used in single or block applications (no more than two consecutive applications in a block) and alternate with fungicides from a different chemistry group e.g. Polyram (or + Systhane if curative reach back is required) with a maximum total of four strobilurin applications per season. NB: Flint Star 90% petal-fall PHI.



Black spot on apples and leaves

## POTATOES



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ **Monitor** early crops for pests and diseases, e.g. cutworm, vegetable weevil, black beetle, aphids, damping off.
- ✓ Flights of **aphids** that colonise potatoes pick up this month (see [www.aphidwatch.com](http://www.aphidwatch.com)). Monitor crops for aphids and their natural enemies.
- ✓ Monitor crops for **late blight**. Cool moist conditions (10-15°C nights,

15-21°C days and wet foliage or high humidity). Dispose of cull piles and tubers graded out at harvest as these can be a source of inoculum for new crops. Maintain a regular fungicide programme.

## SUMMERFRUIT



### Reminders for October:

- ✓ Maintain a protectant fungicide programme over the flowering/shuck-fall period for effective **brown rot** control.
- ✓ If **leaf curl** has not been controlled by dormant fungicides and symptoms are present on foliage, then it will be necessary to apply suitable protectant fungicide prior to expected infection conditions.
- ✓ Continue to monitor for aphid infestations, as early season control of **aphids** is essential to prevent large population build-ups.

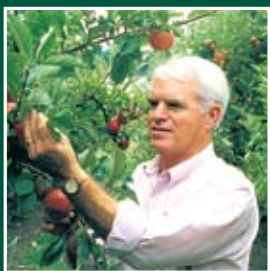
It is vital to maintain effective brown rot control over the flowering/shuck-fall and early fruitlet development period. The use of a weather forecasting system such as MetWatch which identifies infection events and fronts will assist in your decisions. Apply a preventative fungicide programme until stone hardening. The interval between sprays will depend on weather conditions.

For growers exporting to the USA in particular but also local markets, the application of Rovral, Chorus, Flint or Bravo is recommended over the flowering period, saving your Folicur applications for the pre-harvest period. Fruitfed Supplies' research trials have demonstrated extremely effective brown rot control from Folicur when applied pre-harvest. NB: Do not apply Chorus to cherries.

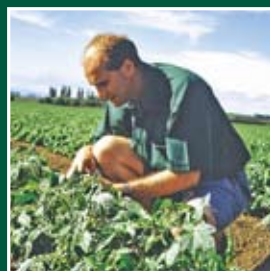
The choice of fungicides for export fruit in the post-shuck-fall period is very limited; consult with your Fruitfed Supplies representative on product choice for other export destinations.



Shuck-fall



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.

# TURF FEATURE

## Silver Secateurs well attended

*A fine spring-like day greeted competitors in this year's Silver Secateurs grape vine pruning competition held at Villa Maria's Auckland vineyard in August.*

Once again, Fruitfed Supplies is proud to support this important competition which recognises the skill and expertise of the many people working in the grapevine management sector. We are delighted to acknowledge the success of the following competitors and congratulate all participants in this year's Silver Secateurs. We also thank the other major sponsor SNA-E Bahco for their support. ➔



The winning team, Matua Valley from the Hawke's Bay



Matua's Andrew Stove again featured as the winner of the tying competition

### PERNOD RICARD TYING

Place	Name	Region
First	Andrew Stove	Hawke's Bay
Second	Chris Robinson	Wairarapa
Third	Verunee Cameron	Marlborough

### BAHCO INDIVIDUAL PRUNING

Place	Name	Region
First	Aranna Paul	Hawke's Bay
Second	Willy Pulukamu	Marlborough
Third	Rory McEnroe	Nelson

### TEAMS EVENT

Place	Name	Region
First	Matua Valley	Hawke's Bay
Second	Pulukamu	Marlborough
Third	SPLA Contracting	Marlborough



Another Hawke's Bay competitor Aranna Paul took out the premier individual pruning challenge



**SOME ACTION!**

**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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