

## Largest installation of Orchard-Rite wind machines completed

*Eighty Orchard-Rite wind machines have been purchased by McKean Estates Ltd in what is the largest single sale of Orchard-Rite machines in New Zealand.*

Waiata Vineyard, with 325ha of grapevines now planted in Waipara, is now the most significant planting in the expanding grape-growing region north of Christchurch. The company has another 150ha of grapes in Marlborough's Wairau Valley, but it's the sheer scale of the Waipara operation that's attracting attention.

The 53 Orchard-Rite wind machines installed on Waipara vineyard this winter have already proven their worth during an eleven hour frost event says viticultural manager Dan Riddell. "We came through that with nil to minimal damage amongst our oldest vines which are coming into production this season," says Dan who started with the company in April '07 and has played a key role overseeing the installation of the CAT diesel-powered Orchard-Rites.

Company founder and managing director Royce McKean was the one who made the decision to go with Orchard-Rite.

"We looked at the frost fighting options available to us: water, helicopters and wind machines," says Royce. "Water in the volume we would need for a vineyard of this size probably wasn't viable. You'd need about 38 helicopters to cover our site, so weigh up the cost and feasibility of that. Then Fruitfed Supplies suggested visiting the Orchard-Rite manufacturing facility and growers using their wind machines in Yakima, Washington State, USA."

Royce says he came to the conclusion that Orchard-Rite wind machines gave the best coverage of any models on the market. "Not only were the technical considerations important, but also the philosophies of how the Orchard-Rite people do business. Ultimately, we had a lot of confidence



*Waiata Vineyard in Waipara has made use of its 53 new Orchard-Rite wind machines during a recent 11-hour frost event*

*Continued on page 2.*

## Season's greetings

*From all the team at Fruitfed Supplies around the country, we send our very best wishes to all our clients and their families for a joyful and productive holiday season and a fantastic New Year in 2008.*



# FRUITFED NEWS

Continued from page 1.

in the key people at Orchard-Rite and that they'd stand behind their products. The length of time they've been in business and what they'd be like to work with longer term also contributed to our decision that these are the type of people we want to do business with."

Royce selected the CAT diesel engines partly due to their low emissions and tier 3 rating under emission regulations.

And while there have been some teething problems, as you'd expect with an installation of this size, Royce says that Rob Lamb, Fruitfed Supplies' category manager who looks after Orchard-Rite, has been great to work with. "And Rennie Barnes, our representative from the Amberley PGG Wrightson-Fruitfed Supplies branch, has been at the coalface of the installation, has worked hard to keep the installation on track and has added a lot to the whole process." ➡



The first Orchard-Rite gets installed earlier this year

## KEY FACTS ABOUT THE WAIATA VINEYARD AND THEIR ORCHARD-RITE INSTALLATION

- All wind machines are Orchard-Rite 3000 series and powered by CAT 6.6L turbo charged diesels with auto-start/auto-stop functions;
- Installation and freight was completed by Hawke's Bay company Hooked On Rigging;
- Each machine covers around 6.2 ha, depending on exact land contour and machine numbers;
- Solar panels keep machine batteries charged;
- The Waiata team is currently evaluating different methods to monitor all machines from one PC.

## Why Orchard-Rite wind machines are superior

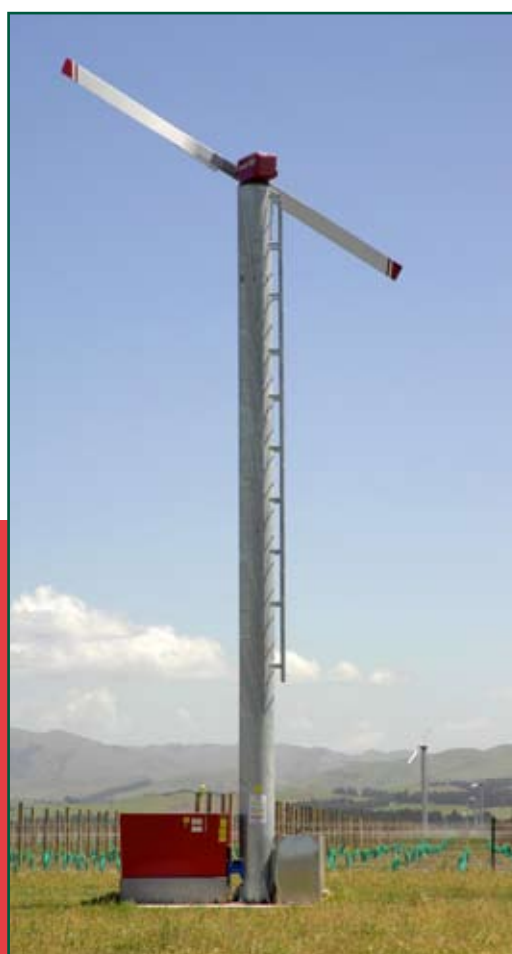
Many facets of the Orchard-Rite operation have an effect on making their wind machines the number one-seller in the world, including intensive research and development, commitment to quality of all components, and working closely with growers.

But if you had to name one thing that makes them really stand out from its competitors says Fruitfed Supplies' Rob Lamb, it's Orchard-Rite's blade. "With the effective area these blades cover, it makes them significantly the most cost effective choice available."

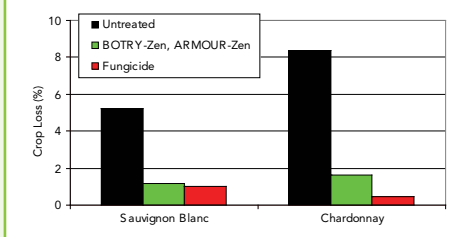
"It's the technology, practical know-how and experience that goes into the design of an Orchard-Rite wind machine blade that ensures (a) a greater level of effective and efficient air movement in the desired pattern, (b) strength and reliability, and (c) grower confidence the machine will help protect their crop from frost," says Rob. "You just need to stand in front of different brands of machines to feel the difference or look at the protection zones of each after a heavy frost; they speak for themselves."

An Orchard-Rite wind machine blade is made of solid fibreglass composite, offering outstanding strength and longevity compared to the extruded aluminium frequently used by competitors. "And, in fact, by Orchard-Rite until the early '80s when aluminium's limitations became apparent," says Rob. "Orchard-Rite blade moulds are computer-designed to produce the finished blade as a strong one-piece structure, moulded with the specific dimensions and angles for maximum air 'pull and push'."

Rob concludes: "Another factor with an Orchard-Rite wind machine is that, via Fruitfed Supplies, a factory-trained network of service agents is on-call throughout New Zealand 24/7. Although, if you have regular maintenance services done, we find breakdown situation seldom occur and that definitely plays a part in a grower's longer term satisfaction with the performance of an Orchard-Rite wind machine." ➡



**CROP LOSS AT HARVEST IN HAWKE'S BAY  
SAUVIGNON BLANC AND CHARDONNAY 2007**



## Armour-Zen: new *Botrytis* control for grapes

*Botry-Zen Limited has released Armour-Zen for late season Botrytis control in grapes.*

The active ingredient in Armour-Zen is soluble chitosan which is extracted from crustacean shell, which is documented as providing an elicitation effect to stimulate the plants' defences to actively fight disease, says the company's technical and field support officer Kirstin Spratt. "Armour-Zen also has direct microbial action, stopping the *Botrytis* spore from germinating and killing developing mycelia."

### Recommended use includes:

- Regular applications from pre-bunch closure ensure the ripening berry surface remains protected
- Application prior to an infection period with re-application dependent on disease pressure.

Armour-Zen has no withholding period and can be used right up to harvest.

Tested in the field, Armour-Zen reduces the *Botrytis* crop loss. The graph shows that in a residue-free programme, where Botry-Zen was applied over flowering followed by Armour-Zen applications from pre-bunch closure, the crop loss was significantly reduced to levels similar to a full season fungicide programme. ➡

Armour-Zen is registered under the ACVM Act 1997, P7570 and is Bio-Gro certified (#4405).

## Serenade Max: in tune with sustainable viticulture

*Serenade bio-fungicide offers grape growers all the benefits of a good broad spectrum contact and protectant fungicide without the residues.*

With activity against three very important diseases – *Botrytis*, powdery mildew and sour rot – and no withholding period, Serenade is a great option for late season use in integrated control programmes or at all critical *Botrytis* timings in organic crops, says Pete de Jong from Elliott Technologies Ltd.

"Serenade Max® is a more active formulation of an amazing biological control agent, the naturally-occurring soil bacteria *Bacillus subtilis*," says Pete.

Serenade Max works by penetrating disease cell membranes, causing them to burst and die. It also protects foliage surfaces and dying flower parts by preventing spores from causing infection.

To get the best out of Serenade Max against *Botrytis* in conventional programmes, the Elliott Technologies' team recommends using it after bunch closure following application of specific *Botrytis* fungicides. "Always apply with an adjuvant such as Bond Xtra® or Du-Wett® to optimise coverage and crop protection," adds Pete.

Vineyards that are following an organic regime can use Serenade Max over flowering to give both flower and foliage protection, from both *Botrytis* and powdery mildew, followed by two strategically timed applications at 4–5 weeks from harvest and again at one week from harvest. ➡

**2005-06 HAWKE'S BAY GRAPE TRIAL FOCUS VINEYARD PROJECT  
(Geelen Research, Mission Estates Vineyards, Napier)**

Treatments Rate/ha	% infected bunches at harvest	% crop loss caused by <i>Botrytis</i>	% disease control
Untreated/control	40.8	9.7	0
Serenade Max 2kg (7)	10.8	2.2	73.5
Serenade Max 4kg (7)	4.3	0.5	93.8

NB. The bracketed figures relate to the number of cover sprays of each treatment from after pre-bunch closure. All treatments (excluding untreated/control) had a Euparen Multi, Teldor and Switch programme from flowering to pre-bunch closure.

Serenade Max® is a registered trademark of Agraquest, USA. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act, 1997. No. P5809.



## Delegate: a new insecticide from Dow AgroSciences

*Delegate™ is a new, highly active insecticide released by Dow AgroSciences for use in pipfruit during the 2007/08 season.*

Extremely active against target pests at very low use rates (50 g/ha of spinetoram), Delegate offers very high levels of codling moth and leafroller control. A withholding period of only 14 days makes Delegate ideal for use on apples in Ultra Low Residue (Apple Futures) programmes says Bernard Harris, Dow AgroSciences' technical specialist.

"As part of research on pipfruit around the world, three seasons trials on apples in New Zealand were conducted on sites with extremely high levels of codling moth and leafroller pressure," says Bernard.

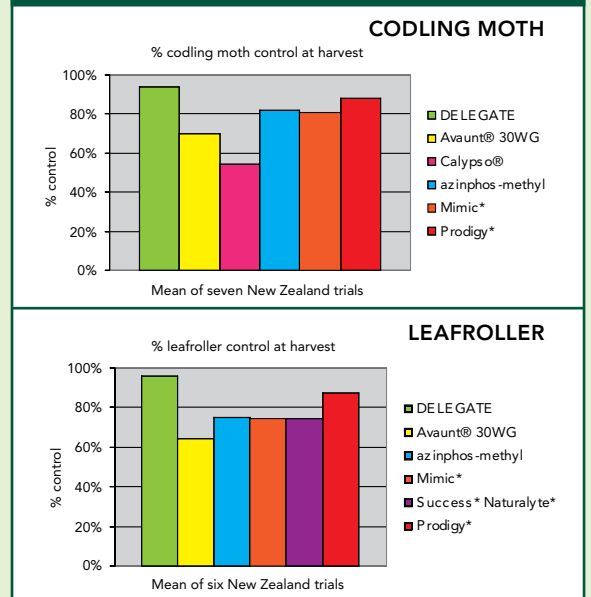
At harvest in untreated plots, between 23-60% (with a mean of 42%) of apples showed codling moth damage and between 7-22% (mean 14%) showed leafroller damage. Delegate was compared to other insecticides in programmes applied at 2-4 week intervals from petal fall until harvest.

Overseas trials have demonstrated low impact on key beneficial insects including ladybird beetles (*Coccinellidae*), lacewings (*Chrysopa spp.*) and damsel bugs (*Nabis spp.*). On pipfruit in New Zealand, Delegate will primarily be used mid to late season. Typical use patterns at this time are not expected to adversely interrupt control of mites and woolly apple aphid by natural enemies. ⇨

Delegate™ is the trademark of Dow AgroSciences. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 No. P7635.



PERCENTAGE OF PESTS CONTROLLED IN APPLES AT HARVEST (RELATIVE TO UNTREATED)



## Quantum Mist sprayer speeds up Hastings operation

*A six-head Quantum Mist™ tower sprayer saves Hawke's Bay grower Brendon Downey both time and money, while providing more effective delivery of crop protection products.*

"If I hadn't purchased the Quantum Mist, we would have had to buy two airblast sprayers to cover the same area and I'd have needed an extra driver too," says Brendon who owns and runs the 121ha Brookfield Farm in Meeanee, just south of Napier, producing apples and wine grapes.

Brendon bought the Croplands Quantum Mist tower sprayer from Fruitfed Supplies a year ago. He understands the benefits of the six vertical tower-mounted patented lightweight axial Quantum Mist fans. "The fans deliver high volume, turbulent air and can be easily directed to specific parts of the canopy, improving overall coverage, reducing drift, and making it ideal for applying chemical thinning sprays, bud-breaker compounds, and seasonal growth regulators."

Assisted by a self-contained hydraulic power-pack, a low horsepower tractor trailing a tower sprayer can save up to 30% more fuel than a conventional airblast sprayer, a fact that saves Brendon money.

"I also like the concept of getting across the ground quicker. Early in the season when the buds are breaking we get the sprayer up to 12 km/h. Later in the season we run it about 8 km/h, but even at the faster speed the Quantum Mist provides better coverage than our airblast."



Greg Evans from Croplands with Brendon Downey and his new Quantum Mist six-head tower sprayer

With water rates between 15-30% less than conventionally used, Brendon saves time travelling from orchard to filling station. "We can spray up to 32 ha at 250L/ha in a day. A fill takes about 3.5 hours to spray out with the Quantum Mist so we don't need to fill up as often."

Talk to your Fruitfed Supplies representative about the technology and benefits of a Quantum Mist tower sprayer. Fruitfed Supplies is the exclusive distributor of Croplands Quantum Mist and airblast sprayers in New Zealand. ⇨

## Proclaim remains popular

*Now in its fourth season on the market, Proclaim's proven efficacy against leafroller makes it popular with commercial growers of kiwifruit, grapes, apples and pears.*

With a very favourable residue profile and pest-specific activity, Proclaim® has a loyal following of users says Craig Thompson, horticulture market manager for Syngenta Crop Protection.

"A Fruitfed Supplies survey confirmed that growers value products that offer an improved level of safety to the environment," says Craig. "With the active ingredient of Proclaim derived from a naturally-occurring soil bacterium called *Streptomyces avermitilis*, it is very specific in its action against leafroller and, as surface residues break down rapidly, there is little risk of contact exposure for beneficial insects. These are key factors in Proclaim's favourable environmental profile. It also offers a unique mode of action ensuring no risk of cross resistance."

At a very low rate of use, Proclaim controls leafroller by both ingestion and direct contact. The product is rapidly absorbed by leaves, which gives good rainfastness and provides a reservoir of product within the leaf to give ongoing leafroller control.

"Good spray coverage is essential, however translaminar movement will ensure both surfaces of a sprayed leaf are protected from the feeding of leafroller larvae," says Craig. "Proclaim fits very well in integrated pest management programmes." ➔

Proclaim® is the registered trademark of a Syngenta Group company. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. P7132.



A leafroller adult causes havoc inside a grape bunch

### KEY FACTS ABOUT PROCLAIM

- Nil detectable residues at harvest
- Short withholding periods – pipfruit 3 days; kiwifruit 42 days; grapes pre-bunch closure (see export spray programmes for accepted withholding periods)
- Very low use rate
- Small pack with easy-to-measure granule formulation
- The addition of a non-ionic surfactant is recommended
- Proclaim is compatible with most commonly used fungicides

## TECH-KNOW TIPS

### ASPARAGUS



#### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Take a root sample about two weeks before the expected end of harvest to measure **carbohydrate levels**. Fruitfed Supplies' Crop Monitoring Service is accredited in taking these samples.
- ✓ Glyphosate can be used to **clean up existing weed growth**, but should be applied immediately after the final cut, before re-growth appears. A residual herbicide can also be applied to give control of weeds longer into fern growth.
- ✓ Apply the bulk of the **annual fertiliser requirements** now, in response to a soil test, to maintain the productivity of the beds.

### AVOCADOS

#### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Numbers of six **spotted mite** have again been higher than average on a number of blocks this season. If these were an issue in your block during flowering, control with Mit é mec + DC Tron Plus as soon as flowering is finished. This helps to retain leaves as long as possible to assist fruit-set and early fruitlet growth.

- ✓ **Leafroller control** is a priority as pressure is usually high over spring. Once leafroller become established amongst mature fruit, control is difficult. Monitor blocks and if thresholds are exceeded, control as necessary. Success Naturalyte offers excellent efficacy on leafroller, short pre-harvest intervals and has little effect on non-target organisms. An alternative is Mimic 70W, a selective insecticide, highly specific to leafroller larvae.

#### Early avocado fruit-set



- ✓ Maintain a fungicide cover with copper products such as **Kocide 2000LF**, as fruit rot pathogens may infect developing fruitlets at any stage.
- ✓ Seaweed fertilisers such as **Calibra** may also be useful, assisting early fruitlet growth and encouraging general tree health.
- ✓ Apply Fruitfed Supplies avocado fertiliser to ensure high rates of fruitlet retention, good early fruitlet growth and assist tree recover from flowering stress. Fertigation grades of avocado fertiliser now also available. Alternatively, potassium nitrate helps the spring flush, although avoid excessive amounts of any nitrogen fertiliser.
- ✓ Monitor **irrigation** requirements closely. Dry periods may place undue stress on the tree, limiting fruit-set, fruit growth or causing premature fruit drop. Fruitfed Supplies' irrigation specialists can help assess the need for irrigation on your property, as well as system design and installation.

## BRASSICAS

### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Key caterpillar pests – **white butterfly and diamondback moth** – become more prevalent in crops this month. Monitor crops carefully. As thresholds are exceeded and insecticides are applied, remember to rotate between insecticide groups to reduce selection for resistance. Insecticides such as Delfin and Success Naturalyte are more selective than broad spectrum organophosphates (e.g. Tamaron) and carbamates (e.g. Lannate).
- ✓ Populations of **natural enemies** should also be monitored as they can have a major controlling influence.

## CARROTS



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Apply Linuron pre- or post-emergence or Gesagard when the carrots have at least two true leaves for **broadleaf weed control**. Fusilade, Centurion Plus or Poast can be used for control of annual grasses.
- ✓ **Cercospora leaf spot** (on young leaves in hot humid weather) or **Alternaria leaf spot** (on older leaves after cool weather) should be controlled using protectant fungicides (Cercospora) or Score (Alternaria).

## CITRUS

### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Monitor young fruitlets closely for **Kelly's citrus thrips** as this pest can severely damage young fruitlets after flowering. For control options, please contact your Fruitfed Supplies representative.
- ✓ The **fungicide** programme needs to be maintained post-flowering, to protect against scab and melanose infection of young shoots and fruitlets, particularly during wet periods.
- ✓ The presence of soft new spring flush provides an ideal opportunity to apply foliar fertilisers to the tree, ensuring fruitlet growth is not limited by sub-optimal leaf levels. Yara **Citrac** is very well suited to citrus, supplying magnesium, zinc and manganese, all of which are often lacking in citrus crops. Timing is critical, so please check with your Fruitfed Supplies representative for optimum application timing for your block.
- ✓ Seaweed fertilisers such as **SM6** may also be useful, to assist early fruitlet growth during the cell division period and encourage general tree health.

### New Fruitfed citrus mix fertiliser

After flowering, feed trees with Fruitfed citrus mix fertiliser; both low-potassium and zero-potassium options are available, depending on your specific situation. These citrus mixes are high-quality blends containing both ammonium and nitrate forms of nitrogen, high levels of soluble magnesium, plus zinc, manganese, iron, boron and copper. The Fruitfed citrus mixes don't contain any chloride.



## GRAPES



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ For the best control of **powdery mildew** apply an appropriate

fungicide approximately 10 days before bloom is anticipated and another at 80% capfall. Fortify your powdery mildew programme with protectant fungicides either side of these applications, and ensure you maintain protection until veraison.

- ✓ Apply a fungicide with **Botrytis** activity at early capfall if wet weather is anticipated. An 80% capfall Botrytis-specific spray is vital to control latent infection developing.
- ✓ Monitor for **leafroller**. If justified, apply a insecticide which is safe to beneficials, such as Prodigy, at 80% capfall.

As grapevine bloom advances, numerous micro-injuries develop and dead, decaying floral tissues build up within inflorescences. In wet conditions, *Botrytis* will readily colonise these tissues but rarely does a visible rot develop at this time of the season. Rather, the infection will enter a dormant phase until berries begin to ripen. This is called latent infection. The rapidly-increasing sugar level and falling acid level in berries, that characterise the onset of veraison, can trigger the reactivation of these infections. If conditions are favourable at this time, a full-blown infection can result, rendering an unprotected bunch unusable within a matter of a few days. There are some excellent conventional and organic fungicides available for the management of latent *Botrytis* infection. Contact your local Fruitfed Supplies field representative to discuss best practice options suitable for your vineyard.

## KIWIFRUIT

### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Following changes to the Zespri Crop Protection Programme, consider your best options for **post-flower control of scale**. An application of **DC Tron Plus** is recommended during the period from fruit-set to 14 days later. While this application timing is relatively safe, label directions and best practice guidelines must be followed; application of mineral oil during the period from 14 days after fruit-set to 35 days after fruit-set is risky. Please contact your Fruitfed Supplies representative for further details.
- ✓ **Sclerotinia** may be an issue if conditions are warm and wet through the flowering/post-flowering periods. **Flint** may be applied during flowering, but after fruit-set apply **Rovral Gold** prior to these wet periods to provide optimum *Sclerotinia* control and maintain fruit yield and quality. Note that Rovral has a 100 day PHI, but it may only be used up to four weeks after fruit-set.
- ✓ **Foliar fertilisers**, such as Pentaflor, may be of use after fruit-set to increase fruit calcium and assist with fruit quality.
- ✓ Specially formulated seaweed fertilisers such as **SM6 Plus** or **Calibra** should also be considered from fruit-set onward, to assist early fruitlet growth and fruitlet and leaf quality.



Leafroller feeding damage

The period immediately following fruit-set to January is critical for control of leafroller. Apply Prodigy during flowering or at fruit-set to provide good early control and protect developing fruitlets, whilst maintaining bee safety. After flowering, consider Success Naturalyte (90 day PHI) at the low label rate of 20ml/100L or Proclaim (42 day PHI). Two leafroller applications should be made for optimum control; one at flowering and one approximately four weeks later.

## LETTUCE



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Early season **lettuce aphid populations** have been controlled by

natural enemies in many, but not all, crops. Monitor crops for aphids and natural enemies. Apply a selective insecticide (Chess or Pirimor) only if the ratio of aphids:natural enemies is greater than 10:1.

- ✓ Cool, moist spring weather may bring on outbreaks of **downy mildew**. Regular applications of protectant fungicides, e.g. Dithane Rainshield Neotec, or copper are necessary to prevent infection. The systemic fungicide, Acrobat, should be applied if conditions favour infection.

## ONIONS



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Take a leaf sample for nutrient analysis when the onions have 3-4 true leaves and prior to applications of downy mildew fungicides starting.
- ✓ Apply either Frontier or Lasso Micro-tech for control of summer grasses, prior to the grasses emerging. Both have some activity against various broadleaf weeds.
- ✓ Monitor onion thrips populations weekly – 50-100 plants/crop. Apply a cluster of 3-4 insecticides at 5-7 day intervals if the threshold of five thrips per 50 plants (or 10 per 100) is exceeded. Rotate insecticide groups between clusters.

## PIPFruit



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ If wet warm conditions are experienced this month, maintain protective fungicide covers e.g. Euparen Multi or Orthocide for **both black spot and the summer rot disease complex**. NB. Euparen Multi and Orthocide both 31 December PHI for apple futures programme (AFP).
- ✓ **Monitor codling moth pheromone traps**. If thresholds are exceeded, apply Avaunt or Calypso. NB. Avaunt 1 December and Calypso 31 December PHI for AFP; Avaunt 12 December PHI for all ENZA-compliant export markets.
- ✓ Continue to **monitor leafroller pheromone traps**. If thresholds are exceeded, apply Avaunt. NB. Avaunt 1 December PHI for AFP and 12 December for all ENZA-compliant export markets.
- ✓ If last season's post-harvest monitoring identified more than 2% fruit infested with **mealy bug**, then the application of Calypso is highly recommended.
- ✓ In high risk **scale** areas of the orchard or if any **scale-infested fruit** was detected last season, then the application of Calypso is recommended.
- ✓ Monitor for **apple leaf curling midge and woolly apple aphid**.
- ✓ With rapid fruitlet development during this period, it is important to continue **regular calcium applications** with a safe calcium formulation, such as Stopit.

Late November to early December is a key period to monitor for **European red mite**, particularly in blocks with a previous history of mite flare-ups. This timing coincides with egg hatch of the first mite generation, so if thresholds are exceeded, apply a suitable miticide.

Mit é mec is very effective due to its activity on all active stages, offering ovicidal control on eggs. It's not systemic, but has translaminar action and tends to reservoir within the leaf tissue. This translaminar action provides excellent rainfastness and surface residues dissipate quickly after application, allowing for greater safety for beneficials. Mit é mec is compatible with IPM programmes using the predator mite *Typhlodromas pyri* and has a 28 day PHI. The application of Euparen Multi, a protectant fungicide from the sulfamide chemistry group, will provide growers with an effective management tool for **powdery mildew control** over this period of rapid extension growth.

Over the past six years, our research with this product has confirmed its protectant action on powdery mildew; it also offers black spot and summer rot control.

Apply Euparen Multi in a regular protectant programme from third cover. NB. Euparen Multi 31 December PHI for the apple futures programme and 45 day PHI for all ENZA-compliant export markets.

## POTATOES



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Start monitoring **potato tuber moth** by setting up pheromone traps (1 per crop). Traps should be located on the up-wind side of the crop, at least 50 m from the field boundary.
- ✓ Dithane Rainshield Neotec should be applied at regular intervals to maintain full coverage of the foliage to prevent **late blight** establishing in the crop. Periods of cool moist conditions can encourage a late blight epidemic in crops. Use systemic fungicides, e.g. Ridomil Gold MZ, Acrobat or Melody Duo, in those conditions that favour disease establishment.

## SUMMERFRUIT



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Apply pre-harvest protectant fungicides for **brown rot** control prior to any infection period.
- ✓ Continue to **monitor for aphids**.
- ✓ Monitor for **European red mite**.



Brown rot on plums

The registration of Folicur for late season pre-harvest use helps growers with USA-bound fruit. The EPA decision to reduce the Rovral MRL tolerances in a number of crops, including summerfruit, was a major concern to exporters. Summerfruit NZ has managed to gain an extension with the EPA to allow one more season for apricots.

Fruitfed Supplies technical division carried out research trials with Folicur in summerfruit in this new pre-harvest use pattern. Results demonstrated excellent brown rot control, significantly superior to other industry standards, confirming USA university research trials.

Folicur is a DMI fungicide from the azole chemistry group with systemic properties; studies have confirmed safety to beneficial insects. NB. Folicur 1 day PHI in NZ, Australia and USA. Folicur is not registered for apricots in USA (shuck-fall PHI). Always check PHI with your exporter prior to application.

On nectarine and peaches, the winged female aphids begin to leave their primary host during this period and most will have left by late December. However if aphids remain a problem, the recent extension of the PHI of Chess to 28 days pre-harvest offers growers an effective control option.

The compound is readily taken up by leaves after a foliar application Chess is a selective against Homopterous species, i.e. aphids, with a unique mode of action creating a blockage in stylet penetration. Chess has no effect on beneficial insects, which makes it an ideal product for use in integrated pest management programmes.

## SQUASH



### Reminders for December:

- ✓ Monitor establishing crops for damage by **springtails, grass grub beetles or cutworm**. Apply an insecticide if damage is widespread.
- ✓ Maintain a tight schedule of **protectant fungicides** from four true leaves for control of powdery mildew.

## Viticulturist wins Young Horticulturist award

*Representing New Zealand Winegrowers, Emma Taylor, a viticulturist with Villa Maria in Napier, won this year's Young Horticulturist of the Year competition early in November.*

For the second time in its three year history, a viticulturist has taken out the Young Horticulturist title as 30-year-old Emma saw off the challenges of seven other finalists. Fruit sector representative Robert Humphries of Te Puke took second place with landscape industry representative Gavin Lodge, of Te Awamutu, in third.

Held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens on 9 November, the New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation (NZHITO) Young Horticulturist of the Year competition is designed to recognise the talents and achievements of the many people under 30 years of age working in our horticultural sector.

Fruitfed Supplies supports the event as a gold sponsor and general manager Stephen Guerin says it's particularly exciting for Fruitfed Supplies staff to see Emma take out this year's competition.

"Our Hastings branch staff work with Emma every day and it really is fantastic to see younger people, like Emma and her fellow finalists with the skills and knowledge to contribute so positively to our industry, make the most of the opportunities afforded by the Young Horticulturist competition," says Stephen.

"Congratulations to them all for winning their sector competitions and making it to the final – that, in itself, is a fantastic achievement. And congratulations to Emma from all of us at Fruitfed Supplies; we hope she enjoys the opportunities for furthering her career that come with the title of Young Horticulturist of the Year."

From a prize pool of more than \$30,000, Emma received a selection of prizes exceeding \$20,000, including overseas travel to further her horticultural interests, a Leadership NZ management course and a voucher to the value of \$1,000 to spend at any Fruitfed Supplies branch.

The competition involved the eight finalists completing a number of practical and computer-based activities, including a 'hortisport' event where they raced each other and the clock as they tackled various horticultural-based tasks. The final challenge a short speech and general knowledge quiz during the evening function.

After the competition, Emma said: "I was confident in some sections, but found myself nervous in other areas. The hortisport event was a challenge, especially trying to get the motor mower to go. I now know a lot more about fuel lines on motor mowers! And I was especially nervous during the quick-fire questions event at the dinner, especially as the points board was on show and Robert Humphries' points were climbing up.

"The competition was an amazing experience for me. I would encourage other young people to take part in future years. The exposure to other industries in the horticulture field is first rate. It really opened my eyes. Overall it was a fantastic opportunity." ❖



Winner and 2 runner ups from left Gavin Lodge, Emma Taylor, Robert Humphries



Meredith Guy has her grafting skills tested



Elena O'Neill during the 'hortisport' event



The finalists in the 2007 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition were (left to right; back row) Meredith Guy, Elena O'Neill, Louise Heller, (front row) Gavin Lodge, Robert Humphries, Emma Taylor, Chris Vork and Jeff van Rijen

**Emma's fellow competitors were:** • Fruit Sector of Horticulture NZ: **Robert Humphries of Te Puke** (second) • The Landscape Industry Association of NZ: **Gavin Lodge of Te Awamutu** (third) • NZ Arboriculture Association: **Elena O'Neill of Dunedin** • Nursery & Garden Industry Association: **Meredith Guy of Napier** • Vegetable Sector of Horticulture NZ: **Jeff van Rijen of Ohaupo** • NZ Recreation Association (Parks & Recreation) **Chris Vork of New Plymouth** • NZ Floristry: **Louise Heller of Christchurch**

**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.

The information contained in this publication is of a general nature and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice in specific cases. All content of this publication is subject to copyright. Any further use or reproduction of images or content is forbidden without prior permission of Fruitfed Supplies head office.