

Post harvest disease control on apple trees

Black spot

The key to reducing overwintering black spot inoculum is to prevent leaves surviving into spring. Foliar urea at 100kg per hectare as a full-cover dilute spray at leaf senescence is the most effective method of achieving this. The urea assists with a rapid breakdown of the falling leaves as well as having a fungicidal effect on the black spot present on infected leaves. This increases the mortality of overwintering black spot fruiting bodies.

European canker

The wet spring and summer period provides very suitable conditions for European canker establishment. With the quarantine issues resulting from this disease, prevention measures are well worth considering at leaf fall, particularly if wet weather conditions are expected at this time. Applications of Captan should be made immediately prior to the expected wet periods to cover leaf scars. Usually at least two applications are required, but in extremely wet autumns, three or more applications may be necessary.

Phytophthora management

The wet winter, spring and summer conditions over the past few months provided optimum conditions for the establishment and manifestation of Phytophthora.

Replanted orchards, particularly with varieties on MM106, and orchards with poor drainage or high water tables are at risk. Although MM793, M26 and M9 are highly tolerant to this disease, they are not immune.

On blocks that have had a history of some Phytophthora, a post harvest application of a suitable phosphorous acid product, e.g. Phosgard™ and Foschek™ should be used. Both of these products are used at 500ml per 100L and must be sprayed to run-off. It is important to spray the trees before leaf senescence while foliage is still in good condition.



Phytophthora symptoms on a young apple tree.

Skeltons Hastings new Business Manager

Pete Sutherland has taken on a new role as manager responsible for the Skeltons Hastings store operations.

Peter has a diploma in Horticulture and has worked in orchards and packhouses for 20 years, covering the full gambit of orcharding life. He has also spent over 10 years in sales and marketing of fruit, both nationally and internationally.

Lachlan McKay continues as Hawke's Bay Field Manager and Ian Gold remains Skeltons General Manager..



Peter Sutherland

Skeltons Pruning Information Day

With winter fast approaching, Skeltons is pleased to invite you to our annual Pruning Information Day. Pick up top tips, products and advice for all your pruning requirements.

Thursday 19 May, 10.00am—4.00pm

At Skeltons, 233 Ruahapia Road

- Morning and afternoon pruning demonstrations
- Free BBQ—all day • Spot prizes on the hour—every hour!
- Huge specials in-store! Skeltons has a huge range of pruning equipment to suit your needs
- Meet experts in the industry and ask any questions you may have.

Please call us on 06 876 8029 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Weather watch

Weather summary for April at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	29.8	22.3	166.3	67.2
Average temp °C	12.6	13.2	13.1	12.8
Average max temp °C	19.4	21.1	18.5	19.5
Average min temp °C	6.5	6.0	8.4	6.7
Chill hours	344.2	290.7	88.6	281.3
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	179.6	248.0	483.8	241.21



Skeltons to judge environmental awards

Skeltons General Manager, Ian Gold has been invited to judge the World Environmental Respect Awards for the Asia Pacific region. Skeltons won this award last year and Ian will be joining other international judges via videoconference link to select the 2011 winners.

Winning young viticulturists wanted

Hawke's Bay viticulturists aged 30 and under are encouraged to enter the Markhams Young Viticulturist awards. For more details, contact Skeltons Technical Advisors, Blake Herbison 027 284 4147 or James Cropper 027 442 8948.

Free unwanted agrichemicals collection

A free collection and disposal service for unwanted agrichemicals is available from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council from 17 to 19 May. Phone 06 833 8027 or 0800 108 838 for more details.

Skeltons Great Big Tool Box Giveaway

Purchase pruning gear*, Excel Organic Oil or Excel Spring Oil, and be in the draw to win a Great Big Tool Box. Runs from 1 May to 31 July. See our website for terms and conditions for full product list.

www.skeltons.co.nz

Winter store hours

Our off season hours now apply:

Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm, closed on Saturdays.

What's in store for...

Slug control

Perfect autumn breeding conditions this year have meant high egg populations and control is now vital before damage to crops occurs. Mild weather and food availability reduces the time for the slugs to reach sexual maturity to three months, so potentially large numbers now exist.

Mesuro Pro (in 25kg bags) is a new formulation of methiocarb that lasts for three to four weeks. The new smaller shaped pellet is a low-dust type with excellent spreading capability.

Slug Out (in 10 kg bags) is a metaldehyde-based granule also low-dust with very good attractant abilities.

The best way of monitoring for slug numbers is to either lay a sack or plastic Frisbee-type disk over the suspected areas with a small amount of chicken mash. Apply baits immediately when large numbers are present.

Claybird shoot a winner!



'Woolly' from Hunting & Fishing, Napier once again supported the highly enjoyable Skeltons claybird shoot held last month. He is seen here presenting Craig Treneman (left) with a lucky draw shotgun. Ski Lowrie took out the top shooter spot for the second year running. Thanks Woolly for a great day.

Events

Skeltons Golf Day

When: 13 May 2011
Where: Hawke's Bay Golf Club
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Daniel at Skeltons Ph 876 8029

Skeltons Pruning Information Day

When: Thursday 19 May, 10.00am—4.00pm
Where: Skeltons, 233 Ruahapia Road, Hastings

ICE Expo and Young Fruitgrower of the Year

When: 1 June 2011, 9am – 4.30pm, Free Entry
Where: Hawke's Bay Showgrounds
Contact: Lesley Wilson on 021 898 795 or email info@iceexpo.org.nz

Want more information?

Should you require further information on any articles in this newsletter, or on any other matter relating to horticulture, please contact us.

Skeltons

233 Ruahapia Road, Hastings.

Phone: 06 876 8029

Email: info@skeltons.co.nz

www.skeltons.co.nz



World Respect Winner 2010

Call one of our technical field team direct:

Hawke's Bay

Jeff Kevern

027 442 8945

Andrew Whitworth

027 442 8946

Chris Herries

027 443 3910

Lachlan McKay

027 444 0838

Blake Herbison

027 284 4147

Evan Walsh

027 201 3481

James Cropper

027 442 8948

Martin Taylor

027 298 8800

Dave Llewellyn

027 227 2016

Biological Unit

Todd Whiffen

027 457 2697

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

