

Consider the pollination experts carefully



Watch out for warning labels on agrichemicals that are toxic to bees.

As everything around us is going through its reproductive phase of flowering, we need to consider our pollination experts, the humble bee (*Apis mellifera*), responsible for pollinating the vast majority of our food crops.

Any activity that puts bees at risk could reduce their \$4 billion input into New Zealand's economy. They need our help to survive so please exercise caution.

The risk to bees is considered when agrichemicals are registered in New Zealand. For this reason a number of products carry the warning: toxic to bees. Products carrying such a label must not be applied to plants in flower that are likely to be visited by bees.

Bees may travel as far as five kilometres from their hive. So even though hives may not be in close proximity, bees could still be about. For this reason we recommend using bee-safe products when crops are flowering.

Other steps that can be taken to reduce the risk to bees include:

- Eliminating flowers in the orchard sward by mowing before spraying
- Spraying drains to eliminate flowers (is also good husbandry)
- Understanding the impact of spraying on neighbouring crops and the timing of flowering
- Preventing spray drift onto flowering plants. *Continued overleaf*

Passion, honesty and integrity hallmarks Skeltons' business

Having completed three months heading up Skeltons, I am beginning to feel 'at home' but before I become absorbed by the culture of this great business, I share with you some of my initial observations.

First and foremost is the passion and skill of each member in the Skeltons team. Across the business there is an expert for every major crop and for most of the lesser crops too. For the more significant crops (apples, kiwifruit, grapes, and vegetables) there are multiple experts (Technical Advisors being their official title).

These experts constantly bounce ideas off each other and challenge thinking within the Skeltons team. Debates are often rigorous and technically challenging, as each member puts forward their argument on a particular issue, but always with the goal of achieving the best outcome for the grower. These characteristics impress me as they are the backbone of a high performing team at the leading edge of technology. The team can then turn a great depth of technical skill into straightforward recommendations for our growers. In almost all instances, the grower will be oblivious to the behind-the-scenes work that has gone into the recommendation.

The second observation is the absolute honesty of each Technical Advisor. On my first day in the job one of these advisors pulled me aside and said "Luke, I am not a salesman. I will not recommend a product I do not trust 100 percent nor will I recommend a product when the grower does not need it."

His comments reflect the thoughts and actions of every Technical Advisor in Skeltons. None of them are salesmen. I have even had several growers quote examples of Advisors recommending not to apply any product at all, which has been contrary to reps from other companies. This shows that our team is actually walking the talk. For me that was music to my ears. Skeltons business has been built on trust with our growers and with me at the helm, this will not change in any way.

These observations affirmed for me that that my decision to join Skeltons was the correct one. The challenges are exciting and the future is bright as we continue to expand partnerships with the growers of New Zealand.

LUKE HANSEN Skeltons National Manager Horticulture



Some bee facts



- A bee preserved in Amber found in Myanmar (Burma), now dates to an estimated 100 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period.
- Honey storing social bees developed during the Miocene between 20 -10 million years ago.
- Cave paintings in Spain from 7000 BC show the earliest records of beekeeping.
- Keeping of bees in hives dates back to 2400 BC near Cairo.
- Honey was valued highly and often used as a form of currency, tribute, or offering.
- A healthy hive may contain as many as 60,000 bees.
- A colony can expand from a Queen and a few dozen attendants to tens of thousands of bees in just a few weeks.
- A Queen can lay 2000 to 3000 eggs per day after mating for life.
- Only female honey bees sting, the males do not.
- The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.
- Foraging bees have to fly about 195,000 km to produce a kilo of honey, visiting around 4.5 million flowers.
- Bees in New Zealand are under constant pressure from loss of habitat due to varroa mite, colony collapse disorder, and pesticides.

From front page

Consider the pollination experts carefully

It is important to remember that just the action of spraying liquid onto bees can cause mortality, even if it is a 'bee-safe' product. To minimise this risk, apply sprays either early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the bees are not foraging.

The law states that "if a pesticide carries a class 9.4 Ecotoxic rating as defined by the HSN0 Act 1966, it must not be applied:

- (a) If bees are foraging in the area and the substance is in a form in which bees are likely to be exposed to it; or

(b) To any plant or tree that is likely to be visited by bees if;

- (i) The plant or tree is in open flower or part bloom;
- (ii) The plant or tree is likely to flower after application of the substance within a period specified by the Authority.

The period specified by the Authority must not be longer than 10 days."

John Lees, Skeltons Field Manager, Northland

Benefiting applications for kiwifruit

Increasing fruit size during periods of low payout is one way of maximising grower income. Benefit Kiwi is a tool that if applied correctly, can help a grower achieve increased returns.

What is Benefit Kiwi?

Benefit Kiwi is a nitrogenous bio-fertiliser that is designed to increase fruit size by creating more cells within the fruit in the period immediately after fruit set. Made from natural plant extracts, that when applied to kiwifruit, provide increased auxins, complex amino acids, nucleotides and gibberellins to the vine. Once it enters a plant, these extracts stimulate cell division.

Cell division in Kiwifruit

The effects of auxins and gibberellins on cell division (cytokinesis) was first reported by M Hopping in 1976. Hopping noted that in the development of fruit and seed tissue, cell division started immediately after flowering and persisted for up to 23 days. Hopping also noted that when extra auxins, gibberellins, and cytokinins were added, increased cell division took place. Also, whilst cytokinesis is taking place these cells start to enlarge. Growers of both green and gold should be looking to target this period of cytokinesis with their Benefit Kiwi applications.

Timing and rates of application

Benefit Kiwi should be applied once the first flowers have set with ideal timing for both gold and green kiwifruit at 90 percent petal fall.

This will maximise cytokinesis within the fruit.

A second application should be timed for seven days later, and the third, if required, a further seven days after that. Better results may be achieved if applications are made during warm conditions due to increased nutrient uptake by the plant.

Rates will vary depending on the cultivar. Growers should be looking to apply 1000L of water per hectare for gold, and 1500L of water per hectare for green. In both instances, Benefit Kiwi will be added at a rate of 300ml per 100L of water. This means that with each application, growers should be applying 3L of Benefit Kiwi to gold and 4.5L to green.

At least two applications are required to maximise cytokinesis. A third should be considered if fruit size is still small due to either heavy crop loading at fruit set or poor growing conditions.

Dwayne Farrington, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Bay of Plenty



New option for late blight and downy mildew control

A new fungicide for late blight control in potatoes and downy mildew control in onions is now available for New Zealand growers.

In trial work to date, Revus[®], developed by Syngenta, out-performed other standard fungicides while maintaining clean and greener canopy. In the EU, comparative ranking of potato late blight fungicides by Euroblight 2010 placed Revus[®] as the top performer out of 11 other late blight products.

It offers a new level of flexibility in disease control programmes with long lasting protection from infections and excellent rain-fastness. Containing mandipropamid, a unique compound from a new chemical class that acts at three stages of the late blight and downy mildew life cycle, Revus[®] prevents spore germination, stops early mycelial growth, and reduces sporulation by setting up a barrier for further infection.

This is achieved via a unique combination of three actions: highly active disease control, rapid and strong bonding to the leaf waxy layer, and gradual filtering into the plant tissue. Curative activity of 12 hours (prior to visual symptoms) also adds to this high level of protection offered.

Rate of use depends on application interval and disease pressure, between 400mls and 600mls per hectare with the lower rate for seven day interval and low pressure, and the higher rate for ten day intervals and high pressure.

The addition of an organosilicone super wetter such as Hywett is recommended when applying to onions. On potatoes a nonionic adjuvant is recommended.

Andrew Whitworth, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Hawke's Bay



Initial trial work of Revus[®] shows it is out-performing other standard fungicides while maintaining clean and greener canopy.

Managing resistance in summerfruit fungicides



Brown rot symptoms in Freedom plums.

Protecting existing fungicides from resistance is critical to guard New Zealand and its horticultural growers from serious economic consequences.

The main fungicides used to control disease and at risk from resistance are DMIs (Demethylation Inhibitors). DMIs have many desirable features, including low toxicity to other organisms, protective and curative properties, and compatibility with integrated pest management.

Many older protectant fungicides are not considered to be at risk from resistance, including products with active ingredients such as like thiram, captan, sulphur, mancozeb, which are non-selective and have activity against a broad spectrum of diseases.

DMIs can be used for the control of brown rot on summerfruit crops, such as peaches and nectarines, over the bloom stage or just prior to harvest. The appropriate control strategy is to apply a maximum of three applications of DMIs, preferably with non-DMI fungicides, over the pre-harvest period. Apply alternative non-DMIs fungicides at other times.

Over the summerfruit flowering period, there is also a number of other chemical

groups that can be used, including anilinopyrimidine (Chorus[®]), strobilurin-based products (Flint[®] or Pristine[®]), or thiram. Prior to harvest, dicarboximide (Rovra[®]) or captan are different options to using the DMIs.

Brown Rot Spraying Options

Example 1

Pink to shuck fall: DMI (Alto[®], Folicur[®] or Nustar[®] in a block of three applications).

Pre-harvest Period: Captan and / or Rovral[®] Flo.

Example 2

Pink to Shuck Fall: Chorus[®] or Pristine[®] or Flint[®] in a block of three applications.

Pre-harvest period: Captan and / or Folicur[®].

By restricting the product groups to the flowering or preharvest periods of growth and limiting the number of applications, good disease control and minimum resistance risk can be achieved.

For personalised advice on your summerfruit disease control programme, contact your Skeltons Technical Advisor.

Jeff Kevern, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Hawke's Bay



Frost protection: managing costs

Operational decisions and management of costs are at forefront of all growers' minds. One production cost that has risen in the past few years is frost protection.

If using a wind machine for frost protection, consider whether it is operating efficiently:

Fuel consumption Operating and leaving a machine set in Auto Start/Stop will avoid any unnecessary running. Make sure the thermometer sensor is checked and calibrated each season.

Diesel return stack heaters These burn approx 1.1 to 2.3 litres per hour for back-up heat. The larger damper settings are for the light-up period only. After the heater is started, the damper should be turned down to a one-hole setting. The amount of protection needed for each site can be determined only by the grower, based on their experience with frosts, so have a light-up plan in place, particularly if the dew point is below critical. Burning efficiency and the life of the burner can be lengthened by ensuring heaters are maintained and stored properly at the end of each season.

Use Smart Lites An easy-to-see green or red flashing light can save a lot of costly running around, stress, and time. Placed within the frost fighting area, the Smart Lite will also indicate if more back-up heat is required when fighting a frost.

Warrant of Fitness and annual service Ask for a written quote that has a comprehensive itemised service check list before servicing commences to avoid unwelcome extra charges.

Fuel supply Check that the price paid is competitive and that the supply source is reliable.

If a decision to buy a wind machine is being considered, take care to research the costs involved:

Check what's new Changes and improvements take time and money, money you could save not just now but also long-term. Find out what's available in regards to noise requirements and frost fighting area per wind machine.

Price Check that the quoted price includes everything and fully compare the brand parts, specifications, WOF, and 24 hour emergency back-up service and support.

Fuel consumption All wind machine blades are designed differently and the amount of power required to drive the blades, and the frost-fraught area, varies. Motor manufacturers



Managing your wind machine costs now can lead to greater savings in the long-term.

must comply with New Zealand emission standards. Consider Carbon Zero emissions. More burnt fuel also means more frequent fuel delivery and larger storage facilities.

Having a reliable weather forecast underpins any and all considerations. There is a network of forecasting services in all regions of New Zealand that can provide weather opinions.

Blake Herbison, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Hawke's Bay

New boss for Skeltons

Skeltons welcomes Luke Hansen to the role of National Manager Horticulture. With a solid background in horticulture, Luke was the perfect choice to replace Ian Gold, who has retired as Skeltons General Manager. (See separate article on Ian on back page.)

"For the last 13 years I have been working for a number of Australasia's leading horticulture, viticulture and agriculture companies, so I come to the role at Skeltons with a wide range of industry and crop experience under my belt.

"There are challenges ahead in our industry but with the strength of the great team at Skeltons we will meet them head on. And I welcome your input – my phone is on and my door is always open. I look forward to delivering excellent service and value by listening to you, identifying



Luke Hansen

opportunities and finding solutions to maximise the potential of your land."

Luke's previous positions include NZ Agronomy Manager for Pepsico, NZ Agricultural Manager for Cedenco Foods, and Agricultural Manager for Heinz-Wattie's.

Prior to these roles, he gained experience in the flower industry working as a research technician; as a nursery worker in Europe's then largest nursery; and as a statistical consultant for MAF.

In these roles, Luke was on the 'other side' as a customer; he believes he has a sound understanding of what growers want and need. He also had dealings with Skeltons' competitors so is very aware of how Skeltons needs to perform to deliver outstanding value to its customers.

Luke's experience gained from working across a wide regional spread in New Zealand (including Manawatu, East Coast, Hawke's Bay and the wider Auckland region) means he carries a broad knowledge of regional characteristics and their unique opportunities.

At the leading edge... Latest products on the market

Skeltons aim is to keep our growers at the top of their game, and being up with the latest in horticultural innovation is part of our service. We update you on new products to the market.

For further information on how these products may fit into your production system, contact your local Skeltons Technical Advisor.

Fungicides

Talendo®

A new active fungicide for the control of **powdery mildew in apples, grapes, and squash**. Contains the active ingredient proquinazid.

Proxima®

Proxima® is a fungicide for use in **grapes and squash** for control of **powdery mildew**. Contains the active ingredient quinoxifen.

Insecticides

Sparta®

Sparta® is a new product for control of **tomato potato psyllid in potatoes and tomatoes** based on the active ingredient spinetoram.

Vertikill™ and Vertiblast

Biological insecticides based on an indigenous strain of fungus for the control of **sucking insects in many crops**.

Insecta-kill

A broad spectrum insecticide based on silicon dioxide for use on many crops and pests.

Molluscicide

Nukem

Nukem is a molluscicide for control of **slugs and snails on many crops**. Nukem is a liquid spray formulation based on tea saponins from *Camellia sinensis* and has a nil withholding period for all crops.

Miticide

Paramite®

Paramite® is a new miticide registered for use on **avocados** to control **six spotted mites**.

Herbicides

Neeko Oleo™ – herbicide

Neeko Oleo™ is a post emergent **maize and sweetcorn** herbicide for control of **grass and broadleaf weeds** including **broom corn millet**. This new formulation requires no additional surfactants to be effective.

Vixen™

Vixen™ is a contact **herbicide** for use in **orchards, vineyards, and non-crop land**. This product has two active ingredients (glufosinate-ammonium plus oxyfluorfen) to control a larger spectrum of weeds than other products with a single active ingredient. Vixen™ can also be used at lower rates per hectare.

Sunburn protectant

Oasis™

Oasis® is a liquid formulation protectant product to help **reduce sunburn and heat**

stress in apples. The advantage of this product is that it can be used on coloured varieties.

Pollination enhancer

Polynate

Polynate is a **bee attractant** product to assist with **pollination** in any open pollinated crop.

Psa control in kiwifruit

Psa is a virulent bacteria and no control methods are yet proven to be totally successful. Always consult your technical advisor before the use of any products to tackle this problem.

Bactericides

Combat™

Combat™ is a new **bactericide** that disrupts **Psa** by causing damage and death to the cells. The formulation is designed for good coverage and quick knockdown on the surfaces of foliage, trunks, and leaders. At this stage Combat™ has a limited claim for control of Psa based on laboratory and glasshouse efficacy data only.

KeyStrepto™

KeyStrepto™ (streptomycin) is a registered **bactericide** for use in horticulture. Recently it has been approved for **kiwifruit** where it has been shown to have a high level of efficacy against **Psa-V**. There are several important restrictions on the use of this product.

Skeltons technical team continues to grow

Sarah Williamson has joined John Lees to provide Skeltons complimentary technical advisory service to support Northland growers. Sarah is based out of the new Farmlands Whangarei and Kamo stores.

Sarah grew up on a pip and stonefruit orchard in Hawke's Bay, and went to Massey University to train as a plant pathologist, completing a Bachelor of Applied Science with honours (Plant Science and Horticulture). After a stint overseas, Sarah settled in Northland five years ago.

With over 10 years experience in both advisory roles to growers and horticultural research roles around New Zealand and overseas, Sarah is well qualified to service her horticultural growers' needs.

Sarah is also the only trained sampler in Northland for Psa testing of kiwifruit vines.

Robert Hengst has joined the Hawke's Bay Skeltons technical advisory team. With 20 years managing pipfruit orchards, and more latterly apples, kiwifruit, plums, and squash for a large horticultural business, Rob is looking forward to sharing with other growers the technical knowledge and experience he has gained. He holds a Bachelor of Horticulture from Massey University, plus all relevant industry certificates.

"After two decades on the customer side of the relationship, it's refreshing to be on the other side and to appreciate the level of service and advice that growers need," says Rob.

Frazer Clarke has expanded his coverage area and now works with growers in and around the Rangitikei / Wanganui area, in addition to those in Manawatu and Horowhenua.



Sarah Williamson
Northland
027 550 7016



Robert Hengst
Hawke's Bay
027 501 4848



Boron and nitrogen use in deciduous fruit crops

In perennial fruiting trees, the size and quality of next season's crop is partly a result of the nutrient and carbohydrate stores laid down in the previous season. Over-cropping or poor irrigation management will directly impact these essential stores, which in turn, will affect the potential viability of the overwintering buds to produce healthy flowers that will set well-pollinated fruit.

The impact of nutrition and its influence on pollen viability is often poorly understood. Boron and nitrogen are two key nutrients that have a direct correlation on the viability of pollen to enable penetration down the pollen tubes.

Biennial bearing can be directly related to low nitrogen levels, so past cropping history, production levels, and fruit quality / colour, along with nutrient testing, need to be considered to get the overall picture of limiting factors on achieving maximum production.

With deciduous fruit crops like summerfruit, pipfruit or kiwifruit, the best time to apply nitrogen or boron is during the post-harvest period, late summer. Nitrogen can be applied either to the soil while the roots are still actively growing, or by foliar applications.

Boron application to the soil is difficult as only a very small amount is required per hectare. Caution is required as too much soil-applied boron can quickly result in boron toxicity, which is very difficult to rectify. Foliar applications are a much safer way to evenly spread the quantity of boron over a given area. Research has shown that on apples, autumn foliar-applied boron and nitrogen (85 to 95 percent) will move readily out of the leaf and into the overwintering buds, ready for next spring when these stores will play a critical role over the flowering period.

Autumn application of these nutrients is considered best for deciduous fruit crops and if a deficiency is identified, it is critical not to miss this application period. Spring

applications can be useful to top-up autumn applications.

While timing of spring applications of boron varies by crop, it is normally applied at the popcorn / early bloom stage when there is enough leaf present to absorb the foliar application into the plant's vascular system. Spring nitrogen applications are normally applied to the soil, and made when the roots are actively growing for good uptake. Excessive amounts of nitrogen applied in the spring can lead to excessive vigour and poor fruit colour.

As part of normal good agricultural practice (GAP), records must be kept of all nutrients applied, and each nutrient (N, P, K etc) totaled and compared with the crop's requirements to ensure that fertiliser applications are not excessive. Skeltons Technical Advisors are qualified to assist with these assessments and give specific advice for the horticultural crop being grown.

Chris Herries, Skeltons Technical Manager



This is the second in a series of articles on biological growing that will appear in each issue of HortFocus.



Liquid fish fertilisers feed soil microbial workforce

If you have never used a liquid fish fertiliser (LFF) before then the obvious question could be: Why on earth would I apply liquid fish to my soil? Quite simply, LFF is one of the best biological stimulants and soil conditioners currently on the market.

A pure and properly processed LFF is a complex mixture of valuable oils, enzymes, proteins, carbohydrates, pigments, minerals, fatty acids, amino acids and growth hormones that can naturally feed the soil microbial workforce. Each member within this workforce prefers different parts of the fish body. For example, protozoa thrive in a good mix of protein and fatty acids, fungi enjoy amino sugars, complex proteins and fish oils and earthworms likewise love fish oil as well as protozoa. One of the keys to creating a rapid increase in earthworm numbers is that the LFF must contain the full oil component when used as a soil drench.

Not all LFF products are the same and there are two essential requirements that should be looked for:

- 1. Is it 'whole fish'?** There are suppliers that state they use whole fish minus the fillets or fish waste; however this is not whole fish. A whole fish is what you reel in when you have a good day on the boat. A lot of the valuable compounds are locked in those fillets.
- 2. Is it 'cold pressed'?** The extraction process is the single most important determinant of product quality and there is a big difference between products that have

been heat treated compared to a cold mulching process. Heat treatment / pasteurisation can destroy the enzymes, change the molecular structure of the fat and protein molecules, heavily reduce the vitamin content, kill the beneficial bacteria, and change certain minerals such as calcium in the process. Also products that have been hydrolysed with water in the extraction process tend to have lower concentrations of protein, amino acids and oils.

Another important factor is where are the fish sourced from? The best product is from fish that are salt water harvested from New Zealand's exclusive economic fishing zone, fresh that day and preferably from a local source that is close to the processing plant. Fresh is best.

One product that meets the above criteria is Moana Natural by Pacific Biofert. This is a pure New Zealand deep-sea fish concentrate designed to feed soil microbes. Containing essential proteins and nutrients, it is an ideal soil conditioner for horticulture, cropping and pasture. The Moana Liquids range, including Moana Chelates for specific trace element deficiencies, is available in 5L, 20L, 200L and 1000L. Many are Biogro certified.

These products are available from Skeltons Hastings or Farmlands stores. Talk to your Skeltons Technical Advisor about the use of these products or other biological agents on your property.

Contact Skeltons Biological Unit for further information.

Olives need robust fungicides

Olives grown in New Zealand are subject to more fungal disease than their counterparts in the temperate Northern Hemisphere, due to this country's maritime climate. As a consequence, it is necessary to consider a robust fungicide programme to protect foliage from disease and maintain crop load as a result of good leaf health.

In New Zealand, olives are susceptible to at least two leaf diseases, peacock spot and cercospora. They are also susceptible to at least two bacteria, bacterial blast and olive knott.

During flowering, high numbers of stonefruit thrips can infest flowers, while leaf roller and cicada may damage young trees.

While there are limited agrichemicals registered for use on olive trees in New Zealand, a range of products are available to protect and or eradicate the above issues. As a food crop, it is important that any products used have a nil-residue profile so always get advice before using an agrichemical on olives.

For optimal results, it is important to understand the pest / disease life cycle and how and when to use the appropriate product for the weather conditions.

The activity of fungicide products can be classified in two ways: protectant or eradicant / curative action. It is important to understand which one of these you are using and how and where to place it in your fungicide programme.

Protectant products need to be applied before infection occurs to stop disease infecting a plant. If disease infection has occurred or these protectant sprays have been washed off, the leaves of the plant remain unprotected. Protectant products range in their rain-fastness and natural degradation ability.

Curative or eradicant products can be used after an infection occurs. This can provide disease control where protectant sprays were not present prior to an infection period.

Along with the correct chemical and timing, agrichemical applications must be made with appropriately calibrated spraying equipment to ensure the product is delivered evenly through the olive canopy. Effective pruning is also necessary to aid spray coverage.

Evan Walsh, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Hawke's Bay





Ian Gold retires from Skeltons

Ian Gold, Skeltons General Manager has retired after 10 years leading Skeltons.

With 21 years working in the agrichemical industry, Ian joined David Allan to purchase Skelton Ivory in 2001, rebranding it to Skeltons in 2007. In 2008, the business was purchased by Farmlands and Ian remained at the helm, taking its presence North-Island wide and expanding the technical advisory team from 10 to 20.

Growing the business to the point that it has become a significant player in the Hawke's Bay market, respected by customers, suppliers, and the industry as a whole, has been the achievement Ian reflects on with most pride.

In 2007, Skeltons had outgrown its Victoria Street, Hastings site with the technical team doubled in size from 5 to 10 and the product range increased significantly. Space shortage was resolved with a move to the current Skeltons Ruahapia Road store on an operating orchard more conveniently located on the outskirts of Hastings.

For Ian, the guiding force has been to align the motivation to "do the best" by customers with Skeltons' business goals. "Our desire to give the best advice and products to customers is always paramount. That's the ethos we instill in all our team – what is right for the grower is right for us."

Consolidation of the horticulture industry over the past five or six years into bigger growing

entities has been the most significant change Ian identifies. "Our business is largely about personal relationships and it's sometimes a challenge to maintain a two-way relationship in the corporate world, but where we do succeed, the benefit for both parties is obvious."

Looking to the future, Ian is taking stock over the coming months to reassess his goals and to plan what comes next.



Ian Gold

Supporting stressed growers

Over 150 Te Puke growers joined with Skeltons and Farmlands in late August to listen to words of advice on stress management from Dr Tom Mulholland. With the advent of Psa, Skeltons recognises that stress and anxiety levels amongst many growers are running high.

Dr Tom highlighted that sleepless nights, anger, and thoughts of suicide, are key signs of stress. His message was clear; thought patterns need to be changed to reduce stress levels. He suggested that in a crisis, one tool was to consider the opportunities that had been created.

In the case of Psa infecting an orchard, what are the opportunities for growers? Perhaps change to another crop, look at new resistant cultivars, test products that may give a solution, instill new hygiene standards in the orchard that will reduce further disease, exit the industry and try something else, spend more time with family, take a holiday, and so on.

It was important to adopt a positive view on the opportunities to reduce stress, not just for the grower but for all those around them, Dr Tom advised. For more information see <http://nomoanzone.com>

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

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



Call one of our technical field team direct or through your local Farmlands store.

Bay of Plenty

Dwayne Farrington 027 660 1120
Dean Gower 027 495 4661
Andrew McIntosh 027 555 4575

Biological Unit 06 876 8029

Hawke's Bay

Jeff Kevern 027 442 8945
Andrew Whitworth 027 442 8946
Chris Herries 027 443 3910
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
Rob Hengst 027 501 4848

Horowhenua / Manawatu / Wanganui

Frazer Clarke 027 200 0025

Northland

John Lees 027 612 1562
Sarah Williamson 027 550 7016

Poverty Bay

Joe Lenaghan 027 555 6080

Pukekohe

Steven Dass 027 457 2742

Waikato

Brett Turner 027 660 1165

Wairarapa

Sam Black 027 227 2052

