

New position for seasoned technical advisor

James Cropper has been appointed as our Hawke's Bay Field Manager responsible for the eight-strong technical advisory team. He replaces Lachlan McKay who has left Skeltons to join Apollo Apples as its Technical Manager, so you can expect to see a bit of him on the other side of the desk. Lachlan started with Skeltons in February 2003 and was promoted to Field Manager in 2008. We thank Lachlan for his great service and wish him well in his new position.

James has been a viticulture Technical Advisor for the past five years. He is looking forward to leading the team and continuing to strengthen our relationships with growers and suppliers.

Mealybug control and nutrition in grapes

November is the month to act on mealybug, before grape flowering starts. Monitoring for mealybug at harvest and marking of leaf roller virus-infected vines for rouging out will help decide what action you need to control this pest in your vineyard this season.

Buprofezin products, such as Mortar™, are a specific insect growth regulator that interferes with the moulting of immature stages of mealybug only. It is recommended to apply two applications 14 to 21 days apart before the start of flowering. Buprofezin needs good contact with 1000L of spray mix / ha. If concentrated spray is used, an organo-silicone penetrant / surfactant will improve the efficiency.

With the developing fruitlet fluorescence, there is still time to take a grape tissue sample to test for deficiencies in zinc, boron, molybdenum and magnesium that could influence fruitset.

The blade and petiole collected opposite the first grape bunch will also give a result for nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and calcium, which are all required for a balanced healthy yield.



Bunches show advanced mealybug infestation. The pests take up residence in the bark long before they become evident in grapes.

Codling moth management in pipfruit

Market residue requirements (as directed by your exporter), past codling moth pressure, and whether you operate under organic or conventional methods will all impact on which insecticide is chosen for post-bloom codling moth control.

In moderate to high risk situations, where multiple use of insecticide for codling moth control is common, an application of Altacor® at this time is preferable. With a minimum of 14 days control, this means Moulting Accelerating Compounds (MAC) like Prodigy® and / or Comic, which have a maximum of four applications per season, are available for late season use.

Where bronze beetle problems exist, Calypso® may be used for the first codling moth spray, although the use of Calypso® at this time may increase the risk of woolly apple aphid outbreaks later in the season.

On organic orchards Madex® or Virex Granulosis virus products should be used.

Optimum insecticide timing for your block should be frequently monitored on in the Pipfruit NZ Inc website. www.pipfruitnz Give your Technical Advisor a call to discuss the best option for your particular situation.

Free unwanted agrichemicals collection

Reduce the amount of unwanted, damaged and banned chemicals in our region. A free HBRC collection and disposal service will be available 8 to 10 November.

Contact Fred King, Hazardous Waste Officer on 0800 108 838.

Weather watch

Weather summary for October at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	131.7	103.3	63.7	70.39
Average temp °C	11.4	12.53	13.12	12.89
Average max temp °C	16.86	18.04	18.24	18.68
Average min temp °C	5.87	6.55	8.23	6.81
Growing degree days	83.4	96.4	63.7	70.39
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	689.7	915	789.1	684.8



Sweetcorn and maize weed control

Good weed control starts with a pre-emergence application of Roustabout® prior to crop emergence for broad leaf and annual grass weeds. The addition of Roundup® is also a good idea for newly germinated weeds.

For later weed germinations, Emblem® Flo is a new formulation but must be applied before weeds reach five leaf stage. It controls a wide range of weeds including triazine-resistant fathen, and is compatible with Sumi-Alpha® for cutworm if required. No additional surfactants are necessary.

Latro® completes the package for grass and broadleaf weeds in maize. Timing is most important when applying, so talk to your Technical Advisor first.

Spring promotions on now!

Receive a Christmas ham

When you purchase selected products from Nufarm, Grochem or Bayer from now until 30 November or until stocks last.

Control powdery mildew and you could win a wood fired pizza oven

Every 5L purchase of Pipstar made between now and December gives you one entry into the draw for a wood fired pizza oven (\$2500 value).



Skeltons Agrecovery criteria

- We can accept containers 60 litres or smaller.
- All containers must be triple rinsed to remove evidence of residues / powder / flake or dark fluid.
- Containers must be a brand or product of a participating chemical company or sport the Agrecovery logo.
- Do not remove labels, cut open, or puncture containers.
- All caps must be removed.

Once containers meet the above criteria, an Agrecovery collection receipt will be issued. Growers should keep these for auditing purposes as they are evidence of the sustainable removal process for unwanted empty agrichemical containers.



What's in store?

Packaging

Skeltons has a wide range of packaging products in store, foam sheets, 19mm Dan strap blue and black, 19mm buckles and crate lids.

Weck, Plateau and stone fruit trays are now available; this year we have more sizes in Plateau. Give Daniel a call for a quote or chat to your Technical Advisor about your packaging needs.

Rugby for a good cause

What better way to raise funds than by watching rugby? Back in September, Skeltons held a viewing at Cinema Gold of the All Blacks versus France pool match, raising \$720 for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Trust.



Daniel Hill, Skeltons Hastings store man is pictured with Louise Harvey, fundraising manager for the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Trust.

Events

HBRC chemical collection service

Date: 8 - 10 November
Contact: Fred King 0800 108 838

HBFA annual fishing competition

When: First fine day between 8 and 17 November
Where: HB Game Fishing Club
More info: www.hbfruitgrowers.co.nz/fishing-competition

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.

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World Respect Winner 2010

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