



## Grapevine Intelligence

November 2007

### Grape flowering - think ahead

Grape flowering time is a critical period for pest and disease control - especially if there is dead tissue in the canopy resulting from frost damage.

Botrytis sprays are essential and the timing of fungicides is important for market access. Ensure you choose products with the appropriate efficacy, residue profile and resistance strategy.

Options are Euparen Multi, Shirlan, Scala, Teldor and Switch.

Commonly, Euparen Multi and Shirlan are applied at 5% and Scala, Teldor and Switch at 80%.

#### Powdery Mildew

DMI fungicides are often used around flowering to combat this pest. It is common practice to apply the first DMI at 5% flowering, which ensures that any powdery mildew is eradicated going into fruitset. Prostar and Topas are proven fungicides for powdery mildew in grapes.

Blake and James can advise on Impulse and Twist for powdery mildew and how these products can fit into your current spray programme.

#### Leafroller

Three main products are registered for leafroller control in grapes and can be applied at capfall. Prodigy, Avaunt and Proclaim are economic and effective options.

#### Nutrient Testing

Flowering is also an appropriate time for foliar nutrient testing. The combined petiole and blade test provides a good picture of nutrient status and allows corrective measures to be applied in time to benefit yield.

#### Bird Netting

And lastly, it's not too early to think about ordering bird netting - make sure you order early to guarantee your price.

### Omahu Road depot reopens

Skeltons has reopened its satellite depot at the Haulage Transport yard in Omahu Road again this year, after a successful season last year.

The depot provides Skeltons growers with a range of the basic "product of the day" supplies that may be required urgently for immediate application. Stock control for current seasonal chemical supplies at the depot is computerised and growers are encouraged to phone the Skeltons Hastings store to check that the product they need is available from Omahu.

Trevor from Haulage Transport will handle documentation but technical advice should be sought from Blake, James or the Hastings store - phone 876 8029.

Omahu Road depot - 1454 Omahu Road - Hours: 7.30am - 5.30pm, Monday to Friday

### Mealy Bug trial results released

On 30 October at EIT, Peter Lo discussed the results of the Mealy Bug (MB) trials completed in 2005-06. Peter outlined the products available for the control of MB and GLRV-3 spread. He highlighted that coverage, correct product rate and timing are critical to achieving the best outcome. This is especially important when using Applaud, as being a growth regulator, it needs good pest contact to be effective.

The best spray programme was identified as Tokuthion and oil at woolly bud movement, followed by two applications of Applaud or Ovation. The first application of Applaud should be two to four weeks pre-flowering, followed by a second application 14 days later, as close to the start of flowering as possible.

A product that is not yet registered for use in grapes but showed future promise for MB control was Confidor, a systemic insecticide with stomach and contact action. It is taken up by the vine and has good root activity. Two applications of Confidor with the same timing as Applaud pre-flowering, is more effective than one application of Confidor. The addition of an organosilicone improved coverage and control. However, Confidor applied post flowering in January resulted in detectable residues so is not recommended for use, particularly on export producing grape crops.

Vaughan Bell outlined the results of long tailed MB sex pheromone, where no males were trapped until late March and peaking in May. Aerial dispersal of juvenile MB in March - April resulted in 90% bunch infestation and plants up to 70-100m away tested positive for GLRV-3.

Work is being completed on how long to leave infected land fallow post vine removal. Trials comparing cutting, stump removal and immediate treatment with a Glyphosate 360/diesel mix are being evaluated against immediate removal of stump and roots.

When roguing out infected GLRV, Vaughan suggests removing all material, spraying volunteer vines which grow back and talking to neighbours about maintaining their control.

Importance should be placed on remembering MB control in frosted blocks, as the following season will result in high MB infestations. It is paramount to monitor using GPS for MB hot-spots so that you can identify MB control for the next season.

**For more information on any of the articles in this newsletter please phone Skeltons technical advisors  
James Cropper 0274 428 948  
or Blake Herbison 0272 844 147**



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### Early grape nutrition

Whether or not soil tests were carried out in autumn, Skeltons strongly recommends that grape tissue tests be completed now to determine the nutrient status of grape vines.

Two sampling methods are generally recommended:

- Sampling of petioles **early flowering**
- Sampling of leaf blades at **veraison**
- A third optional tissue test is the combined grape profile (**CGP**) as a cost effective way of looking at both **mobile** nutrients (N, P, K, Mg) in the petiole and less **immobile** nutrients (Ca, B, Zn, Mn Cu) stored in the blade at flowering.

These analyses will indicate the nutrient requirement for most of the season with early attention to boron, zinc and molybdenum for a good flowering and fruit set (molybdenum particularly in Merlot varieties).

Individual boron and zinc foliar nutrient products are available or Bud Wiser Dry, a multi-nutrient combination of boron, zinc and magnesium, can be used to improve leaf chlorophyll. A new addition to the multi-nutrient product line is MoBstar, containing both molybdenum and boron for over flowering.

#### Post Flowering

After flowering, mobile nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium and potassium are redistributed from older leaves to the growing points making deficiency apparent in the older leaves first. On the other hand, immobile nutrients in older tissue will highlight deficiencies in the growing points of the vine first.

Attention to calcium and phosphorus for fruit development and quality is as important as nitrogen and magnesium for good leaf condition.

Potassium, important for plant growth during the season, is concentrated in the berries at veraison to enhance sugar and colour. A leaf blade test conducted at veraison will help determine if any potassium is required.

**If you require any further nutrition information for vine health please talk to your technical advisor.**

### Emma Taylor top of country

**Our congratulations to Hawke's Bay's viticulturist Emma Taylor, winner of this year's NZ Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. on 9 November.**

Emma, (30), who is the company viticulturist with Villa Maria, Napier, represented the NZ Winegrowers sector. She competed against seven others representing various sectors of the horticulture industry.

Emma received a selection of prizes exceeding \$20,000, including overseas travel to further her horticultural interests and a Leadership NZ management course.

### Wind power saves whole season's crop

Amarillo wind machines are having a huge impact on the national horticulture industry, with positive feedback coming in by the bin load from satisfied Amarillo customers.

Steve Nathan, owner of Salvare vineyard in Ngatarawa Road, Hastings, purchased an Amarillo from Skeltons earlier this year and cannot speak highly enough of his high-tech wind machine.

"Basically it saved a whole season's crop and I couldn't have done without it," he says.

A newcomer to the grape growing industry, Steve is still learning the ropes and says that he choose to purchase an Amarillo because they are product supplied by Skeltons.

"The service I receive from Skeltons, in particular Blake is excellent. I'm still a novice to grape growing so having that back-up from them is vital," he says.

Steve says the Amarillo machines were recommended to him by others in the industry, cementing his decision to make his purchase.

"I did a bit of research with people who I knew were already using the machines on their own crops and everyone I spoke to highly recommended the Amarillo to me."

"It's a great machine and purchasing it has proven invaluable," says Steve.

**If you would like to speak to one of our technical advisors about the Amarillo wind machines, call us on 876 8029.**

### Upcoming Events

The following are activities of interest. If there is anything you wish to include please phone or email: [ian@skeltons.co.nz](mailto:ian@skeltons.co.nz)

**Hawke's Bay Winegrowers** 'Improving irrigation performance / grapevine trunk disease' seminar • Tuesday 20 November • Omaha Gravels vineyard • 1.30pm

### Weather Watch

Weather summary for October at Trotter Road is as follows:

October	2005	2006	2007
Rainfall	146.9	41.3	26.4
Average temperature	13.2	13.1	13.5
Average maximum	18.4	19.2	19.9
Average minimum	7.9	6.7	6.7
Growing degree days	115.8	124.8	136.4