



*The Skeltons team wishes you a safe and enjoyable festive season with your family and friends. Thank you for your support this year, we look forward to growing with you in 2012.*

## Holiday hours

Skeltons and Farmlands Napier and Hastings stores will be closed on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December, then again on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 January.

We will be open our normal hours on all other days including Saturdays from 8am to 12pm and weekdays from 7.30am to 5pm.

If there is anything you need over this period, please contact one of our technical advisors and we will endeavour to supply your needs.

## Peach rust management

Peach rust management involves preventing primary infection completely, or delaying it for as long as possible. The first post-bloom rust spray should therefore have been applied by mid-October to ensure fungicidal protection is present before the first infection period.

Successful control relies upon a protectant programme of Sulphur or Thiram® applications. These chemicals have curative properties so must be applied prior to an infection occurring.

Spraying is required on Golden Queen peaches through January.

## Control powdery mildew now

December is the critical month to keep powdery mildew from entering your vineyard. In November, a tight sulphur spray programme up to flowering, followed with a DMI at flowering, is the recommended practice.

The next best powdery mildew control immediately after flowering is to open up the canopy at the bunch line. This is where powdery mildew first develops as conditions tend to be warm, humid, and shaded. Using a leaf remover at this stage will also remove any bunch trash where botrytis can establish.

With sulphur volatilisation increasing with increasing temperature, the length of activity is significantly shorter in December. If you are vacationing for more than seven days between Xmas and New Year, it is recommended that a DMI be applied such as Prostar, Topas®, or a Quinoxifen that has at least 14 days activity for effective powdery mildew control. It is important to mix Quinoxifen with triazole chemistry to minimise the chances of resistance build up to powdery mildew.

## Tomato / Potato psyllid new releases

Growers now have more good tools to use in the battle against Tomato / Potato psyllid (TPP) this season. Sparta® is a newly-released product based on the active ingredient spinetoram. It is fast-acting and stops feeding within minutes, and is registered for both crops.

Avid® now has registration for potatoes when used at 600 mls/ha up to a maximum of three applications. Karate® can be used at 100 mls/ha based on trial results. Proteus® is now also registered for potatoes.

As always, these products should be used in a program encompassing other products to minimise the potential for resistance. The range of TPP products is expanding so consult your Skeltons advisor for the best and most cost-effective strategy for your situation.

## EIT interns join the team

Over the summer months there will be three EIT horticulture students working as interns with Skeltons Technical Advisors. Kristie Tate is currently working with the Skeltons team, while Jaimee Whitehead has started at Farmlands Hastings store. The two will swap places during the programme. Diana Green will also be working with Skeltons and a number of local Farmlands stores for her internship.

## Weather watch

Weather summary for November at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	14.1	10.6	34.6	28.1
Average temp °C	15	15	15.4	15.1
Average max temp °C	21.4	20.7	21.2	21.16
Average min temp °C	8.5	9	9.1	8.37
Growing degree days	163.4	156	153	161.5
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	704	926	705	823



### Sunburn protection of apples

Oasis™ is a new sunscreen product for sunburn protection of apples made from ultra-fine calcium carbonate. Grower trials have shown positive results of sunburn reduction confirming trial work done by Zelam that showed a reduction in sunburn by 5 to 15 percent depending on seasonal conditions.

Its formulation gives a fine texture and stays in suspension easily during application, providing a fine, even coverage of the apple surface that as it dries, appears as a light white film.

Oasis™ does not cause any tree or crop damage and once dry on the tree is resistant to rain. Importantly, work has shown the product washes off easily with packhouse brushes and high pressure washers.

### Latest research into grape trunk diseases

Skeltons Technical Advisor, Blake Herbison played host to presenters of the recent NZ Winegrowers' grape trunk disease workshop and escorted them on a tour of affected vineyards a day ahead of the grower event.

Dr Mark Sosnowski is a research scientist with the South Australian Research and Development Institute. Professor Doug Gubler is a research scientist with University of California Davis, while Dr Marlene Jaspers is based at Lincoln University.

All presented the latest international research on effective management of Eutypa dieback and Botryosphaeria canker diseases.



From left: Blake Herbison, Skeltons Technical Advisor, Tony Purdie (manager of Babich Wines Vineyard), Professor Doug Gubler, Dr Mark Sosnowski, Dion Mundy (Wine Research Marlborough).

### Skeltons winner

Skeltons grower, Carl Fairey won the 'other species' section of the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' fishing competition held in November with this Trumpeter fish weighing in at 15.1 kg. It was a great day of camaraderie. Thanks to the organisers.



### Spring promotions on now!

**Win a Masport 4 Burner Entertainer Plus BBQ (valued at \$898).**

Come into our store, make a purchase by Friday December 23 and go into the draw for a Masport Entertainer plus barbecue. Each entry form must be filled in by the grower and placed into an entry box in store. (Farmlands Shareholders only).

### What's in store?

**Hand thinning** Orchard ladders and sizing rings.

**Harvest** Picking buckets and accessories, staplers and staples, chalk, bin cards, bin covers, gloves.

**Maturity testing** Refractometers, iodine, pattern starch index charts, colour swatches.

**Orchard equipment maintenance** Caltex oils and lubricants plus, degreasing agents, CRC and greases, tie downs, implement pins, lynch pins, hitch pins, D shackles etc.

**Sun protection** Cancer Society sunscreen 400ml, 1ltr, 2.5ltr pump bottles - all SPF of 30+.

**Smoko** Coffee, tea, Milo, sugar, biscuits.



### Events

#### HB Fruitgrowers' Association Industry Awards Night

When: Thursday 9 Feb 2012  
Where: Havelock North Community Centre  
Time: 7.00pm (doors open at 6.45pm)

The short film that was made for the Apples from NZ campaign has been included to play at the Black Barn film festival on Friday the 6th of January. [www.blackbarn.com/events2.asp?id=332](http://www.blackbarn.com/events2.asp?id=332)

## 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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