

## Bird control options for grapes

It is time to start considering your bird control options. If your existing bird nets have been in storage are they still in good order? If you are looking to replace, it may be more cost effective to change from the old over row 5m bird net to a side net.

The Polyside mono hybrid of monofilament plus tape is good for strength, and has a small hole size to keep waxeye birds out. Having a range of bird deterrents like reflective tape, kites, bird bangers and ammunition is a good idea; contact your Technical Advisor to see what will work best in your situation.

## Late season vege disease control

Good late season disease control is important when crops are finishing, days shorten and dews increase.

For downy mildew, Acrobat®, Phosgard, and Ridomil® Gold MZ are a few that when timed before downy is seen, are extremely useful.

Good protectants for Botrytis and Sclerotinia are Sumisclex®, Protek®, and Barrack®. Combine with Champ® for added control.

Powdery mildew (particularly in cucurbits) requires regular spraying in late summer using systemics such as Prostar™, and Talendo®. Sulphur will also work well on warm days and can be used in combination with systemics. A wetting agent such as Hywet is recommended for enhanced coverage.

## Wet weather disease management

These wet summer conditions are ideal for the development of summer rots and European canker, and the progression of black spot. Applications of Captan should continue through these high risk events as long as the withholding period can be met.

It is looking like the 700 GDD is likely to be later than past years should current weather conditions prevail. Apply codling moth sprays during this time to help prevent disease, particularly for fruit being produced for codling moth susceptible markets. Altacor™, Comic™, Virex™ and Madex™ are suitable options but check with your exporter prior to application. Check WHPDs for your markets also.

Leaf roller moth flights can be expected to increase from now with the greatest numbers appearing from early March onwards. The amount of green vegetation present from a wet growing season may well result in higher populations than found in dryer years. Altacor™, Comic™, Proclaim™ and Dipel™ are suitable options but again, check with your exporter prior to application.

## Skeltons advisory team expands again



**Bridget Evans 027 511 8096**

Welcome to Bridget Evans who has joined the Hawke's Bay viticulture team. Bridget has a degree in horticulture and worked in hands-on viticulture roles with small and large wine businesses in Masterton, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay. Bridget is bolstering the team due to James Cropper's appointment to Field Manager.



**Gaz Ingram 027 511 8097**

Skeltons Biological Unit has been expanded to encompass organic horticulture with the appointment of Gareth (Gaz) Ingram to manager. Gaz has many years of experience growing organic pipfruit having worked for both Mr Apple and Bay Orchards. He is passionate about improving soil health for overall healthier crops and assisting growers towards nil residues at harvest.

## Weather watch

Weather summary for January at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	11.9	182.9	194.4	104.2	70.4
Average temp °C	19.0	18.0	18.9	18.0	18.7
Average max temp °C	25.4	23.1	24.2	23.9	24.6
Average min temp °C	11.8	12.2	13.3	12.0	12.6
Growing degree days	279	250.1	272	232	263.4
Rain since Jan 1 (mm)	11.9	182.9	194.4	104.2	70.4



## Skeltons Excellence Award EIT cadet winners

Conrad Kirk, a first-year viticulture student at Eastern Institute of Technology in Hawke's Bay is the inaugural recipient of Skeltons Excellence Award for viticulture. Epere (Eps) Epere (for the second year) and Shane Flynn are the pipfruit cadet winners for 2011.



Skeltons Hawke's Bay excellence award recipients (from left) Eps Epere, Conrad Kirk and Shane Flynn with James Cropper, Skeltons Hawke's Bay Field Manager



## Congratulations

Kelvin Taylor of Golden Del Orchards (centre) won the Pipstar pizza oven competition held in December last year. Kelvin is pictured with Wayne Palleson from Zelam (left) and Luke Hansen National Horticulture Manager.



Murray Prowse (left), Orchard Manager, Apollo Pac won the Masport 4 Burner Entertainer Plus BBQ. He is pictured with Pete Sutherland, Skeltons Hastings Business Manager (right).

## What's in store?

**Harvest** We have a range of picking buckets and accessories and orchard ladders available.

**QC requirements** We have bin cards, chalk, vivids, staples, staple guns etc. We have a comprehensive range products for packhouses, including temperature recorders, cal 175, DPA, refractometers, Ripcord®, and smoko supplies.

**Stonefruit packaging** A great variety at very competitive prices is available. Use your Farmlands Card to ensure you take advantage of its benefits.

**Harvest machinery** We have oils, grease pins, shackles, and everything you need to ensure your machinery is ready for harvest.

**Safety** We have everything you need to ensure all your team are looked after this harvest.

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

## Events

### HB Fruitgrowers' Association Industry Awards Night

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

## 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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