

## Frost control accessories

Skeltons has a range of accessories in store to help combat frosts. We have a new range of hand-held thermometers from Silvan; one model measures temperature, relative humidity, dew point, and air speed and another model measures temperature and air speed. There is also a range of digital and wet/dry bulb thermometers in store.

Smart Lites are an effective tool for measuring how well you are managing a frost event, especially if using a helicopter or lazo heat machine. The lights have four defined temperature ranges (from 3 °C down to -1 °C), sit on top of posts, and flash a certain colour depending on the temperature. This allows the pilot or driver to focus on areas that are more vulnerable. For more advice on fighting frosts, please talk to your Technical Advisor.

**Save \$98 on frost pot diesel heaters – now \$178.20 down from \$276.20.**

## Asparagus tips for a good start

A clean block starts with good weed control. Applying Roundup® prior to bed-forming and cultivation will help control perennial weeds.

An early application of Mesuro® Pro or Slug Out® prior to spear emergence helps lower the pest population, especially where high numbers have been present. Slug products will give about three weeks' control so two applications may be required if numbers have been high during the winter.

A pre-emergence herbicide for annual broad leaf and grasses is mandatory if you want a clean start. Options include Krovar®, Gesatop®, or Karmex®. Good soil moisture at time of application and rain within five days will help activate the pre-emergence products.

Skeltons also has high quality asparagus knives proven to be ideal for harvesting.



## Rob Hengst, new Technical Advisor

A born and bred local, Rob 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.



**Rob Hengst 027 501 4848**

## Seasonal store hours

Skeltons spring and summer seasonal hours for our Hastings store will be:

**Monday to Friday 7.30 am – 5pm**  
**Saturday 8 am – 12 noon**

Starting 3rd September until March 2012.

## Weather watch

Weather summary for August at Trotter Road:

	2009	2010	2011	10 year average
Rainfall (mm)	68.8	86.1	30.3	56
Average temp °C	10.1	10.7	7.8	9.3
Average max temp °C	15.6	15	13.7	14.8
Average min temp °C	4.5	6.3	2.3	4.1
Chill hours	755	313.7	417	654
Rain since 1 Jan (mm)	491	759	708	570



### Pipfruit seminar

Skeltons annual pip and stonefruit technical seminar was attended by 80 growers this year. The latest information and guidelines for the coming growing season were presented on a range of crops.

Topics included sprayer technology, pest and disease control, market access issues, and control options for pest control.

Growers expressed frustration at not being able to access new key chemistry for pest control. This is what we specialise in so please give your Technical Advisor a call.

**Don't miss our grape technical seminar on September 7. Join us for a cuppa at 2.30pm, seminar will kick off at 3pm.**

### Increase bee activity

Bees play an integral part in the production of quality crops; good pollination is imperative if quality crops are to be set and grown through to harvest.

Several factors can greatly influence bee-mediated pollination, from an insufficient number of hives, weak hives, competing crops or weeds, and poor weather conditions over flowering. To potentially increase the presence of bees and their activity within the block Polynate™, a bee attracting pheromone tie, can be used. This product dispenses known attractants for up to six weeks, attracting and keeping bees within the block.

Skeltons has a limited supply of Polynate™ this year for trial work only. Talk to your Skeltons Technical Advisor if you would like to participate.



**Congratulations to Martin Stafford who won the Skeltons Great Big Toolbox competition. Martin (right) is pictured with Skeltons Technical Advisor, Martin Taylor who provides advice for his orchards.**

### Paul runner up Young Viticulturist of the Year

Congratulations to Hawke's Bay defending champion Paul Robinson, Villa Maria Estate, who came second in the Markhams Young Viticulturist national final held in conjunction with the Romeo Bragato conference. Winner, Nick Paulin, is from Peregrine Wines in Central Otago.

Fea Pievie from Pernod Ricard Redstone Vineyard won the 2011 Silver Secateurs national competition.

### What's in store?

Check out the stock clearance table in store for great bargains on old stock lines including pruning secateurs, spraying nozzles, and saw blades.

With the spraying season all but started, Skeltons has a full range of safety equipment including Vent X Spraysuits, Coverall Spraysuits and Nitrile spraying gloves, and all accessories for AH50 and Kasco spray helmets, including main filters, clear and tinted visors, shoulder capes, and filters. We also have respirators, safety goggles, glasses, earplugs, parkas, leggings, gumboots etc.

For Air Blast boom sprayers, we have a good range of brass, albus, tx and ceramic nozzles.

### Skeltons now stocks

#### Grisport work boots

Italian made of full grain leather, steel plate through the sole to prevent penetration of even nails. Soles are chemical and heat resistant.

#### Castle long sleeved overalls

#### Peak measuring jug sets



### Events

#### Skeltons grape technical seminar

When: 7 September  
Time: 2.30pm  
Where: The Green Shed, Ruahapia Road  
Contact: James Cropper or Blake Herbison  
Phone: 06 876 8029

## 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

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Call one of our technical field team direct:

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