

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Manage crop canopies.
2. Timerite RLEM control.
3. Keep Planning!
4. Ready for shearing?

Recycle empty chemical containers at one of the DrumMuster collection facilities available in most council areas.

Check locations on the Drummuster website.

<http://www.drummuster.org.au>



Seasonal reminders

- Order fence and trellis posts well in advance to ensure supply – long lead times still in play.
- Clean herbicide residues from boom spray tanks, lines, filters and nozzles with All Clear prior to any fungicide applications. All Clear decontaminates all herbicide residues including SU's.



Marlene and I just spent a couple weeks away from the Barossa culminating in a few relaxing days fishing at Farm Beach on the Eyre Peninsula. We travelled there via the Flinders Ranges.

There are a few spots in those parts of the state that looked ok given that it is now August. As we are all aware though, some of our clients have been dealing with a pretty challenging season locally as well. In Australia the biggest challenge we face in farming is the weather. This is often the talking point over the counter in our shops and social gatherings. We do grizzle about the government, banks, the occasional nuisance pests – kangaroos, crows and cockies, but really these are minor distractions in the whole scheme of things.

We had a bloke in the Nuri store last week wandering around the shop browsing, when he was asked if he needed any assistance, he responded that he was just browsing. He had an accent, and upon further enquiry he advised that he was from South Africa. Further conversation revealed that he is visiting our Australian wine regions to help in determining if relocating to one of them was going to be a viable option for him and his family. As he was obviously also farming the discussion turned to conditions in South Africa as compared to

here in Australia. He said it wasn't going too bad but he did think he needed to look abroad for farming options for their future.

He went on to mention that a farmer just 20km from his enterprise was recently killed. He also mentioned that he had just spent a couple million dollars in fencing and security systems to help keep themselves and their employees safe within their own property.

He revealed that he carries a handgun on his waist at all times and his wife, who is currently pregnant with their first child, does the same!

Imagine going about your daily life, including such things as a BBQ with your friends, always with the need to have a handgun on your waist to safeguard yourself and your family!

Incidentally, they are also in drought at the moment.

His name was Michael Klue from Klue Wines in South Africa.

We have to deal with the vagaries of the tough Australian environment and cope with some difficult situations over the course of time. But just for a moment reflect on this bloke's personal situation and don't ever take for granted that we really do live in a very lucky country!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Broadacre Cropping

The same routine of generous rain forecasts and poor delivery continue! I guess we shouldn't expect a different outcome from the same input! Rainfall forecasts delivering 1-5mm on each front have local crops very much living "hand to mouth". This is the case across most of Australia's winter cropping zone! Unfortunately, some areas are now in a diabolical situation and for some of our clients this follows poor seasons in both 2017 and 2018. Despite minimal rainfall it is surprising how well crops are hanging in and the response they have to the small falls that actually hit the ground.

Disease

We are seeing leaf disease in cereals. Septoria can be found on Scepter wheat, while barley crops have low levels of Net Form of Net Blotch.

Oats grown in a close rotation could have septoria and red leather leaf. Crops should be monitored closely as the regular small rain events will promote the continued development of these diseases. Apply an appropriate fungicide as required to preserve and maintain green leaf area.

If you have chickpeas growing in your rotation you will still need to apply preventative continued page 2

- Cold weather continues to drive rodents indoors. Keep up the baiting program with Storm, Talon or Tom Cat. Bait stations in stock too.
- Please return all Chep pallets to either of our yards so that they can be de-hired to Chep.
- Catch winter rainfall run off with a PolyMaster rainwater tank.

- Rev up the garden in readiness for spring with generous applications of Neutrog products.
- Use Performance Feeds MagPlus to alleviate grass tetany in both sheep and cattle.
- Order mulch for under vine moisture retention and to suppress weed regrowth and to improve soil structure.

from page 1 fungicide in front of rain events to protect them from ascochyta. Maintaining crop health and preserving leaf area will be paramount in a tight finishing season.

Nitrogen

Strong grain and continuing solid returns from hay are the key positives on the back of the poor seasonal conditions we are experiencing. Maximising production for your rainfall will again prove to be the most important focus this year!

The dry conditions over the last summer and autumn period has resulted in no mineralization of any nitrogen from the soil. As a result of this we are seeing very good responses in crops to any nitrogen applications. Having said that, we do recommend a cautious approach to nitrogen application rates.

We must manage our crop canopy to preserve some plant available soil moisture at grain fill.

Weeds

Late germinating weeds have emerged in recent weeks. Prior to routinely applying herbicides to control these late germinations you should check the crops growth stages as some crops are further advanced than they may look. Products like Dicamba, Tigrex, Paragon and Flight can all have a negative effect on the crop if they are applied post jointing.

Managing to actually apply herbicide has been a major headache with the relentless winds holding up boom spray activity.



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Please be conscious of the agronomic features of some chemicals as well. Products like Talinor, Velocity and Precept (newer Group H products) need to be applied during the day - preferably on a bright sunny day. In addition, some products such as Affinity Force or dicamba should not be applied to a wet canopy. You will no doubt be aware of all these cautions off the top of your head! However, our agronomy service provides an opportunity to discuss these in more detail for your situation – give our agro's a call.

Continue to choose soft chemistry and be mindful that it is getting late in the season and plant backs could be an issue again in 2020.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any of the FJ agro's for further info.

Pasture

Hay paddocks will generally be shut off in the early parts of August but given the drier conditions and slower growth to date, this may have already been done. These blocks could be pushed with an application of **urea to promote more vigour** and to boost foliage development as weather favors growth.

Forecast rainfall over the next week or so might be timely for any pasture nutrition.

Some pastures might still be advantaged by **later weed control**. Broadstrike will take care of later infestations of Jacks and Capeweed, particularly in the drier regions of our market area.

Barley grass is beginning to run to head and so a **spray top onto pastures** with a heavier load of this weed might have to be scheduled into the program prior to the end of August on some paddocks. Paraquat will be the product of choice in these instances.

Whilst grasses will be the focus keep an eye out for Red Legged Earth Mite at the same time, include an insecticide and take advantage of the TIMERITE program.

The TIMERITE package developed by CSIRO and supported by AWI provides a reliable and effective option for control of Red Legged Earth Mite (RLEM).

TIMERITE provides farmers with the date for a single spring spray that controls RLEM through to the following autumn. For a short time in spring, after RLEM have finished laying normal winter eggs on the pasture, but before they produce their over-summering eggs, there are no eggs present.

This is the ideal time to spray because eggs are impervious to sprays. Controlling mites in this period means that the whole population can be affected, leaving no mites the following autumn.

On average, a single spray at the critical time in spring resulted in 93% RLEM control in autumn eight months later.

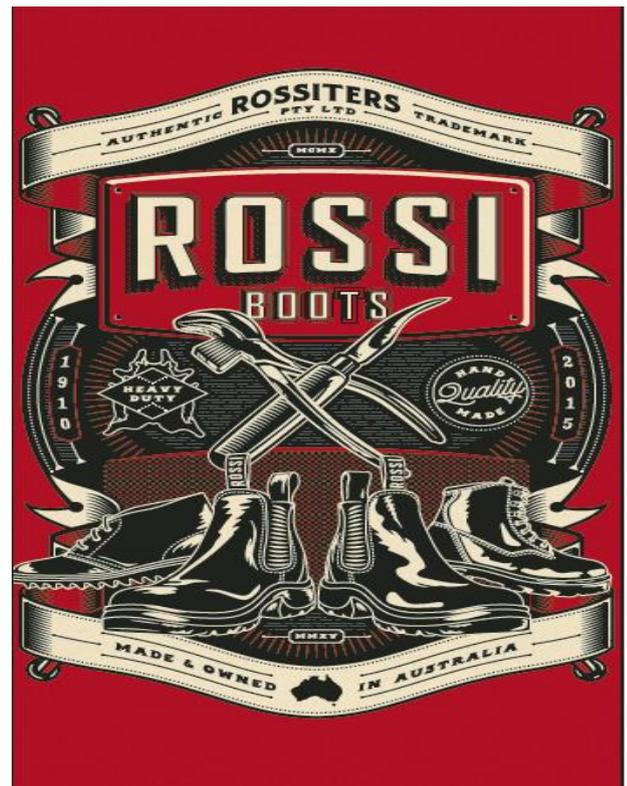
Spray as close to the TIMERITE date as possible - if you can't spray within a couple of days of your date, use Le-Mat within a 2 week period leading up to and including the optimum TIMERITE spray date.

Residual chemicals will kill more mites as they will still be active for a period of time after spray application.

For more information on the TIMERITE program and when to spray, go to <https://www.wool.com/woolgrower-tools/timerite/>

Twine and Silage wrap will be a bit topical for some clients over the next few weeks. The hay market is obviously still very much on the boil and any early hay will find a home very quickly!

Get hold of any of the FJ agro's or call either of the stores for any pasture related queries and for advice on specific issues in your own situation.



Viticulture/Horticulture

Last month we advised the key to a successful summer growing season was to **plan, plan, plan!** We have spoken with a number of you about the rapidly approaching season, many haven't and so we are still talking **planning** for this season.

Whilst general in nature and somewhat reliant on soil type and local environment, recent moisture refill readings have varied from <40cm to >80cm subsequent to July rainfall. Unless we receive further significant falls prior to budburst, many vines will start the season in a deficit profile outside of irrigation top up.

Water budgeting will be integral to a successful season in 2019 – 20.

Weed Control will obviously assist in moisture preservation. Ideally weeds need to be dealt with early in their life cycle as product rates are lower and therefore are much more economical in terms of cost. Once weed residues have broken down and the soil surface is clean, a good residual herbicide such as Chateau should be applied to ensure a weed free surface is maintained over the growing season. Chateau will provide outstanding long term weed control.

Salinity Lower rainfall totals may also impact the effect that soil salinity has on vines in the forthcoming season. In a normal wet winter and spring period residual levels of salt are naturally leached through the profile. This natural leaching hasn't occurred yet and is unlikely to take place based on the current long-range weather forecasts.

Aqua-Cal can help manage salinity in the root zone. It is a unique soil treatment that is effective in opening soils and releasing salts from the soil structure. Aqua-Cal can reduce soil EC and works best where soil is able to drain in order to relocate sodium from the roots. The calcium in Aqua-Cal takes the place of sodium in the soil, so the salt can then be leached beyond the root zone by rain or irrigation. High soil calcium levels help to protect against increasing salinity and improve soil structure – this leads to better root growth and yield.

Plan for nutrition early in the season. Consideration should be given to supplementing nutrition early in 2019 growing season. Dry conditions have seen a reduction in practices such as cover cropping and other mid row treatments. This may also see a lesser nutrient reserve being available for the new seasons early season vine development.

Applying a product such as BudFeed Plus prior to budburst will promote an even, strong budburst. It is also suitable during low chilling hours, which affects vigour. BudFeed Plus provides a nutrient intake of nitrogen, calcium and magnesium through the woody tissue of vines and trees. It ensures even bud development in the spring, reducing inactive buds. This encourages early, healthy spring growth of roots and shoots. as BudFeed Plus helps early growth resulting in even growth; spray applications and flowering are more consistent early in the season. BudFeed Plus is ideal to apply to all young vines and trees especially in varieties prone to poor budburst and where any post-harvest nutrition was unable to take place.

Plan for fungicide programs now so that timely action can be taken at the appropriate time when the season kicks off and to ensure any product that is required is available and organised to be on hand. Discussions with our viti agro's might also identify areas within an existing program that might be improved or have new compounds included to manage fungicide resistance.

We are hosting a **Stoller Grower BBQ** on Friday the 16th August here at the Nuri store – see the ad on this page for details but please RSVP to the Nuri store.

Please call any of the Farmer Johns team to sort all viticulture and horti enquiries or call either store for product supply and orders.

You are invited to our Dealer & Grower Day
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Livestock

Despite the continuing dry, wool and meat production from the sheep flock is still very much a highlight in our tough rural environment.

Lambing is pretty much behind us now, with booster vaccinations to still take place on some properties. Remember the Survive to Thrive 100-day plan from Zoetis to provide the best opportunity for healthier and heavier lambs.

Shearing is on the radar for some clients in the next few weeks and so a stock check around the shearing shed should be completed. Give us a call to arrange deliveries of woolpacks and other shearing requisites. At the same time, you should have a conversation with our staff to review your off shears lice control options. Viper from Bayer will be the lice control product of choice this season. Viper is a new, next generation product in a user-friendly formulation. It provides 100% knockdown of lice when applied according to the label directions.

Give Randall, Ashley or any of the FJ team a call for further info.

Whilst talking shearing, we are also able to offer our clients the full range of Heiniger capital items including wool handling, presses and overhead shearing plant. Give us an opportunity to quote if you are in the market to upgrade equipment.



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