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DrumMuster

collection in the Barossa Valley is located at Kuchel Contractors Landscaping Supply Store

52 Siegersdorf Rd, Tanunda from 8.00am to 4.30pm

every Monday and Thursday
Eligible containers must be:

Rinsed until free of ALL chemical residue and clean and dry.

Punctured if they are metal.

All lids must be removed.

Check the DrumMuster website for depot details in other regions – <http://www.drummuster.org.au>

Christmas Drinks

We invite all clients to an end of year social catch up on Thursday the 20th December from 3pm - 5pm at the Nuri store.

We will advise a date and time for our annual Murray Bridge client night in the New Year

Seasonal reminders

- It is time to get serious with bird populations in vineyards! Ammo, Purivox gas guns, bird scare kites and shimmer tape in stock now.
- Silver Leaf Nightshade is a declared weed. It should be treated with an appropriate herbicide. Call our ago's for summer weed control assistance.



It is natural that we reflect on "the business" at the end of the year. No matter what enterprise we are in, it is good to review where we are currently, what worked well for us this past year as

well as what didn't go so well for us. We can then take steps to adjust our course to move forward more effectively and efficiently. It has been a difficult year for most clients in our area simply based on the low rainfall totals over the course of the year. With harvest well under way it is heartening to see how well some crops have performed despite the tough time they have had in the paddock! On behalf of the Farmer Johns team I thank you for the business you have transacted with us over the last 12 months.

Our staff also value and appreciate the support, relationships and challenges that your custom provides to them personally. Marlene and I, along with all our staff also wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. For us, Christmas is a special time that allows us to spend a little time with our wider family, some that we don't regularly catch up with, and to re-establish those personal relationships that are sometimes overlooked or put aside in the busyness of life! Whatever your personal persuasion in terms of the festive season, please enjoy some personal and quality time with your families. Stop for a short break and re-charge for a day or two prior to 2019 kicking off!

We look forward to continue working with you in 2019!

Stay safe if you are travelling at this time too!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

- Warren Buffett

Viticulture/Horticulture

Fungal Diseases

Recent weather events have been a good reminder that despite long and dry spells a disease management program should be the priority in all vineyard management systems over the growing season. A solid spray program will ensure unforeseen weather events such as we have just experienced and the subsequent disease pressures that are now evident would have been negated by appropriate protective cover sprays.

Waiting until the "horse has bolted" increases disease risks unnecessarily as well as escalating your personal stress levels too, a natural occurrence associated with those situations!

Keep up with your program or check with our viti agro's if you need assistance in ramping it up a bit for the remainder of the season.

Downy Mildew With the continued rain events over the last couple weeks and this week's forecast it is appropriate to provide an update on this disease. Downy Mildew is present in Barossa vineyards, including secondary infection events in some vineyards resulting in clusters of oil spots.

In other winegrowing regions Downy is further advanced causing some real concern.

This scenario has in turn placed supply pressure on products that contain Metalaxyl.

If you believe you should have some eradicant in your shed we suggest you contact us as soon as possible. Products include Ridomil Gold Plus and Ridomil Gold MZ.

Botrytis

Recent hail damage may mean botrytis management plans are reviewed - in many cont page 2..

- Performance Feeds dry lick for sheep and cattle should be made available ad lib to maintain a balanced diet when stock are grazing poor quality dry feed.
- Potato growers can now access Vibrance Prime for treating seed potatoes. Call your normal FJ contact to discuss rates and application.
- Use Gallagher electric fencing systems for containment areas, strip grazing summer forage and stock proofing old fence lines. Call the FJ team for info on battery and mains systems for this task.
- Bait around farm buildings for rats and mice.
- Please return all Chep pallets to our yards as soon as possible.

"with you in the GROWING business"

from page 1.. cases, back to biological options with short withholding periods.

Botrytis spores also enter berries via damage to cells from insects, birds and the scar tissue residual to the flower caps separation on the developing fruit.

Weather conditions subsequent to this damage will ultimately determine if the disease actually develops further into the season. As above though, we don't want to increase unnecessary disease opportunities so appropriate steps should be implemented now to remove that chance. Time of application is closing in some vineyards as both Switch and Prolectus need to be applied prior to 4mm berry size. Some biological options without a WHP can be applied. You should seek appropriate advice to sort the best option for your situation.

Powdery Mildew is present in a few isolated spots – the usual suspects. Typically, we only begin to see more infestations after flowering in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Current overcast and higher humidity conditions are ideal for the development of Powdery. If the recent rain events cause canopies to keep growing rapidly then this will also increase risk of Powdery. Early berry development is a critical timing for protection of berries from infection.

Spray Coverage

Spray coverage will also become a little more challenging as the season progresses. Penetration to the fruit zone is the goal as canopies increase in size and become more obstructive to spray droplets.

In order to overcome this challenge, **check your spray coverage!** Coverage is the key to maximising the effective activity of any product applied in the vineyard. Despite years of experience, reality seems to suggest that many growers could still do a better job in both calibration and spray application. A cost-effective method of checking your sprayer set up is to simply add some Surround to the spray tank. The solution is applied to the canopy. Once it has dried it is very visible and the coverage you have achieved will be evidenced by the white kaolin clay deposit on the leaves. You will be able to quickly see where your machine is working well and where improvements need to be made.

Based on their experience and exposure to a wide range of spray units and trellis structures our viti agro's can assist in calibrating and setting up the sprayer for optimum performance. Give them a call to discuss coverage and water rates for your situation in more detail.

Bioforge has made a significant difference in some Barossa vineyards over the last year or two. Vines treated last season remained in better health over the long dry summer with higher levels of leaf retention and better yields achieved at harvest. Fruit from the treated area of these vines was tracked through production and although not in absolute replicated terms the end result indicated that wine quality was certainly enhanced by the application of Bio-Forge to reduce the impact of stress. Bioforge should be applied to crops prior to the heat events taking place.

Call our agros to discuss rates and timing in more detail.

Broadacre Cropping

A new broad-spectrum seed treatment from Bayer, EverGol® Energy, is set to deliver a new level of disease control in cereals to Australian growers.

EverGol Energy is the next evolution in fungicidal seed treatment from EverGol Prime, combining the proven activity of penflufen with the systemic activity of prothioconazole and metalaxyl. It is registered for control of various smuts, including bunt in wheat, and also class-leading suppression of rhizoctonia, crown rot and pythium in wheat, barley, triticale and oats. In addition, EverGol Energy delivers suppression of fusarium head blight in wheat and barley, and white grain disorder in wheat.

This wide label rate range and an ability to be applied on-seed and in-furrow for certain diseases, and without the need for any additives, EverGol Energy is a very versatile product.

..... Cont page 3



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The ultimate foliar for stress resistance and continuous production

- Amino acids, trace elements & phosphorous for continued long term production
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WARATAH
FIRST - BECAUSE IT LASTS.

WARATAH TRELLIS POST FEEDBACK SESSION
HAVE YOUR SAY

We want to know your thoughts around Waratah steel trellis systems - what works, what doesn't and what could.

WHERE: Farmer Johns, 53 Railway Terrace, Nuriootpa.

WHEN: Wednesday, 5th December 2018, 2:00–4:00pm

Light refreshments will be supplied

AGENDA:

- New trellis post options
- Prototype Jio Star post attachments
- Provide feedback on what design post best suit your needs
- Trellis design options
- Strainer assembly options

All attendees will have the chance to win a Waratah Fencing Tool Bag worth \$200.

Cont from 2.....EverGol Prime was a very good product, but EverGol Energy is a step-up with wider disease claims and a superior formulation with excellent seed coating characteristics.

Having been tested extensively in field trials and through seed grading equipment, EverGol Energy has proven itself in practical conditions. It delivers excellent activity on a wide range of diseases, and in terms of application for both seed treaters and on-farm, it has excellent flowability with a low-dust formulation.

We recommend EverGol Energy as a first-choice protectant for growers and seed graders, and we are confident the product will come through with flying colours.

Dry seasons continue to show how critical it is to conserve soil moisture, starting in the summer. Given recent rains targeting smaller weeds while they are fresh with appropriate low rates of herbicide will give the greatest return to your business. Please observe the new label restrictions on group I herbicides.

Planning for 2019 should be a high priority to secure adequate amounts of seed especially new legumes and canola. Given the plant back issues for 2019 with "Imi" herbicides (Intervix, Intercept, Spinnaker etc) we expect Clearfield seed supplies to tighten. If storing grain on farm be vigilant with grain protectants if not storing in sealed or aerated silos. Ensure good control of grain pests in storage facilities as grain is worth too much to compromise its quality for seed or stock feed. Check with our team for the best option in your situation.

We have some **current prices and delivery options on fertiliser**. If you are looking to back load fertiliser at the end of harvest while the truck is registered please give us a call.

The next level seed treatment has arrived.

New EverGol[®] Energy from Bayer is a breakthrough in cereal seed treatment.

- Excellent control of loose smut in wheat, barley, triticale and oats.
- Class leading suppression of rhizoctonia root rot in wheat, barley, triticale and oats.
- In-furrow or on seed application for crown rot and pythium root rot suppression in wheat, barley, triticale or oats.
- Superior formulation with excellent seed coating characteristics and an outstanding seed safety profile.



Find out more at evergolenergy.com.au

Bayer CropScience Pty Ltd, ABN 87 000 226, Level 1, 8 Redfern Road, Hawthorn East VIC 3123. Technical Enquiries 1800 804 479 EverGol[®] and Bayer SeedGrowth[®] are registered trademarks of the Bayer Group.

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Pasture

With some reasonable rainfall events occurring through the hills and Barossa over the last week or 10 days, following a prolonged dry period, hardy perennial pastures such as Lucerne, Phalaris and Cocksfoot will be taking advantage of this moisture to produce some green feed over the coming days and weeks. It will be important to monitor this growth and manage it accordingly, **taking care not to over graze it** and damage it. Annual pastures may be prompted to germinate and with the BOMs outlook still predicting a hotter and drier than average summer, this could constitute a false break, damaging seed reserves for autumn. Monitoring pastures for germination and growth over the next few weeks or so will be important to assist in planning next seasons pasture strategy. This is another reminder to plan and communicate your autumn pasture strategy so we can ensure we have your **seed requirements** covered.

Established **Lucerne** has seen some significant attacks by Sitona Weevil during the spring. Characteristic "U" shaped notches appear on the leaves and in severe cases can result in considerable defoliation of the plant. Where Lucerne has been cut or grazed recently, the crop may struggle to recover biomass if also under attack from the weevil. Cut Worm has also shown itself in a few lucerne paddocks. Feeding at or just below the surface, they can cut the stems of plants and significantly reduce productivity. As with Sitona Weevil, Cut Worms can kill young Lucerne or seedlings. Speak to one of our agros if in any doubt and to discuss treatment options.

Recent rain events will, no doubt, also prompt the rapid **germination of summer weeds**, for which we should be prepared. Speak to our agros about the best options on knock downs and spikes to ensure you have your likely summer herbicide requirements covered.

FIRE-FIGHTING TANKS

200 - 800ltr
COMPACT PACKAGES

WATER STORAGE

200 - 50,000ltr
RAINWATER TANKS

DIESEL STORAGE

200 - 800ltr
DIESEL UTE PACKS

Polymaster

STOCK TROUGHS

200 & 450ltr
SWEEP TROUGHS

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Livestock and General

A very attractive new option for on-farm fly control is now available. New Seclira®

Pressurised Fly Bait from BASF is for use in and around farm buildings. Fly control is a constant issue on most farms and until now there haven't been many simple-to-use options for keeping areas fly-free. Seclira Pressurised Fly Bait raises the standard for set and forget fly control. This is the first ready-to-use, pressurised fly bait on the market, so it is quick and convenient to apply. The key advantage of this product is superior efficacy. It combines a very effective new active ingredient with a powerful attractant.

Unlike residual sprays, Seclira Pressurised Fly Bait doesn't rely on luck or total surface coverage to control flies. It strongly attracts passing flies to land and feed on it, providing rapid knockdown for an extended period of 4 to 6 weeks. Due to Seclira Pressurised Fly Bait's superior efficacy and unique attractant, only low volumes are needed to provide high levels of control, so it can be sprayed in strips and will dry clear and odourless. When using around livestock and pets, Seclira Pressurised Fly Bait can simply be applied high enough to be beyond their reach.

The importance of a First Summer Drench

In most sheep producing areas a summer drench is considered a strategic necessity and does not necessarily require a worm egg count prior to administering. It is best done as the pastures 'hay off' or start to go to seed. Hatching larvae are killed more rapidly on the pastures once temperatures reach 17°C reducing pick-up by grazing livestock. The 1st summer "clean-out" drench is designed to take advantage of these warming conditions and thereby help reduce contamination that can survive into the following autumn and winter seasons.

Tridectin, the only moxidectin based three-way drench, is ideal for use as a 1st summer drench. Moxidectin, the most potent and persistent mectin, delivers powerful and lasting broad-spectrum control of worms in sheep. Tridectin has the added advantage of having the shortest ESI of any combination drench making it highly suited for use in prime lambs and other potential sale stock.

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