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Invitation

Our annual client night for our Murray Bridge customers will be held at the Tailem Bend Sports Club

on

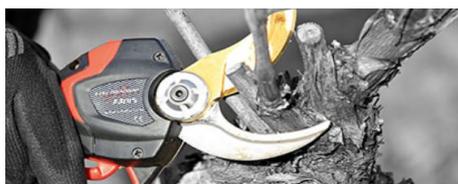
Friday 8th March 2019

from 6.30pm.

Please RSVP

to the Murray Bridge store or your Farmer Johns contact prior to the 5th March.

Thank you very much for your continued support.



Please drop your Electrocoup pruning tools back into the Nuriootpa store so that the annual service can be completed. The service is undertaken on site by our qualified staff Adrian and Emma.



Most of our clients have had some opportunity to relax a little after harvest and before vintage begins.

I imagine that this might not be the case for livestock producers as they continue to monitor

water supplies and are probably locked into supplementing stock with additional nutrition. Whilst these are obviously important jobs, I remind you all to ensure that adequate time is spent in planning for the autumn break.

In the various segments of our Landlink this month are a number of flags concerning rotations, nutrient supply and of course seed orders that all need to be addressed prior to our season start. Some of these are especially pertinent after a very dry season. I would encourage you to all contact our agro team to assist in this very important planning phase.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me!

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When, sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady soaking rain.

The two well-known verses above are from the Australian poem written in about 1904 by Dorothy Mackellar. It was believed to have been inspired after she witnessed the drought breaking rain on her families Hunter Valley property subsequent to a particularly dry spell from 1898 - 1901.

The vast range of environmental challenges across Australia at the moment bear testament that we do indeed, live in a country of extremes - heatwaves, bushfires and floods!

Despite the recent tough season we still need to stay focused on maximising our output in 2019!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards."

Vernon Sanders Law

Viticulture/Horticulture

Vines across the Barossa are generally well into veraison with the full activity of vintage still a few weeks to being in full swing.

The recent hot and dry conditions are testing the resilience of both growers and their vines! **Water is obviously the focus in everyone's patch at the moment.** There is little doubt that should the recent hot conditions prevail for the remainder of the growing season, some vineyards will pull up short in terms of moisture availability.

Further to this, we are aware that some vigneron are crunching the numbers to determine how much longer their water will last – in many cases less than a month of supply remains in reserve.

Applications of Surround continue to "take the heat" out of some vines. Surround has certainly made a difference in those vineyards that have had the benefit of the resultant heat relief.

Soil moisture monitoring comes into its own in seasons such as the one we are managing now!

Please catch up with Adam or Shaun to investigate this further if you are struggling to keep up with the water applications!

Post-harvest nutrition. As we mentioned earlier, many growers are likely to run out of water prior to the close of the season. It is generally recognised that immediately after picking an appropriate post-harvest nutrient should be applied to vines. All plants, including vines, need nutrients removed via the crop replenished in order to remain healthy, productive and for long term viability. The period immediately after harvest also has a significant impact on the following seasons crop in this case vintage 2020.

However, with likely limited water supply on hand after harvest this season it would becont page 2

Seasonal reminders

- Next month will see us into autumn, the main lambing period. Order tags and vaccines in readiness for lamb marking!
- It is time to get serious with bird populations in vineyards! Ammo, Purivox gas guns, bird scare kites and shimmer tape in stock now.

- **Mega bins in stock – call the Nuri store for all orders.**
- **Try the new Seclira fly bait around the farm. Attract flies with the spray on product with no odour!**
- **Now is an ideal time to feed Bunny Bait to any rabbit populations while their natural feed sources are low. Rebaiting may be required.**

- **Ensure a reliable water supply is available to livestock during the current hot weather. Check stock troughs and supply lines. We stock a large range of troughs, tanks, poly pipe and Philmac fittings.**
- **Order trellis and fence posts now!**
 - **Bait around farm buildings for rats and mice – stay on top of them to reduce populations over summer.**

From page 1 prudent to have a post-harvest nutrition plan in place prior to vintage.

Salinity has become more evident in some Barossa vineyards as the dry conditions continue. The last couple light rainfall years will mean that any salts accumulated will not have had enough water through the profile to be leached out of reach of the root zone.

In those areas that have historically elevated salt levels there will most certainly be some plant stress attributable to salinity.

Obviously, any water that may be applied from supplies that indicate higher salinity levels will also compound the problem.

Applications of Stoller's Aqua-Cal will assist with salt displacement and calcium enhancement when added to the irrigation water. It can improve water penetration into the soil as well as increase seedling emergence in salty soils, where excessive sodium is restricting growth and damaging plants. Aqua-Cal helps to develop stronger plant cell structure and optimises root growth, for greater disease resistance. It also improves the plants resistance to physiological problems caused by high sodium levels.

Keep up with the **Surround sunscreen** cover as well. Those crops protected by Surround have certainly coped better in the recent extreme conditions than those crops that aren't Surrounded!

Give our viti team a call for further assistance on everything vineyard!

Broadacre Cropping

Planning for the 2019 winter cropping season is the focus at the moment. It is hard to believe that January is over and the kids are back to school - seeding will be upon us before we know it!

As you are aware, many agchem products we use in our cropping systems rely on moisture to assist in their decomposition. Blind Freddy will know that after such a dry spring and summer, herbicide residues will be a big consideration in planning for the 2019 sowing program.

The following products all have plant back restrictions which will cause issues in subsequent crops - Imi's (Sentry, Spinnaker, Intervix & Intercept), Triazines (Atrazine) and Lontrel. Group Bs (Associate, Tackle, Ken-Gran and Eclipse) have historically caused damage on occasions and similarly the newer Group H chemistry (Precept, Velocity and Talinor) will also cause some grief in conditions such as those we are now presented with.

In order to avoid crop damage, we suggest you thoroughly review your spray program in consultation with our broadacre agro's.

Fertiliser orders

Global fertiliser prices, especially phosphates, appear to be quite stable with the fluctuations in the Australian dollar having the biggest impact on any price movements at the moment. This kind of stability is quite rare and certainly not something we have experienced in recent seasons.

Systiva
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Think bigger

Systiva is now the biggest thing in seed treatment because it controls all the biggest seed-borne and foliar diseases in barley, such as both forms of net blotch, and suppresses Rhizoctonia in wheat too.

All that protection boosts early vigour to help build bigger yields.

So don't just make your usual plans for this season - think bigger. Use Systiva to turn good seasons into great ones.

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We would therefore encourage all of our customers to start making some decisions on the seasonal nutrition requirement.

Very little fertiliser has been dispatched from supplier warehouses. The later the market and deliveries are held off, the bigger the compounded issues are in trying to sort pick up bookings, freight and on time arrival at the farm! We believe fertiliser orders should be a priority for croppers.

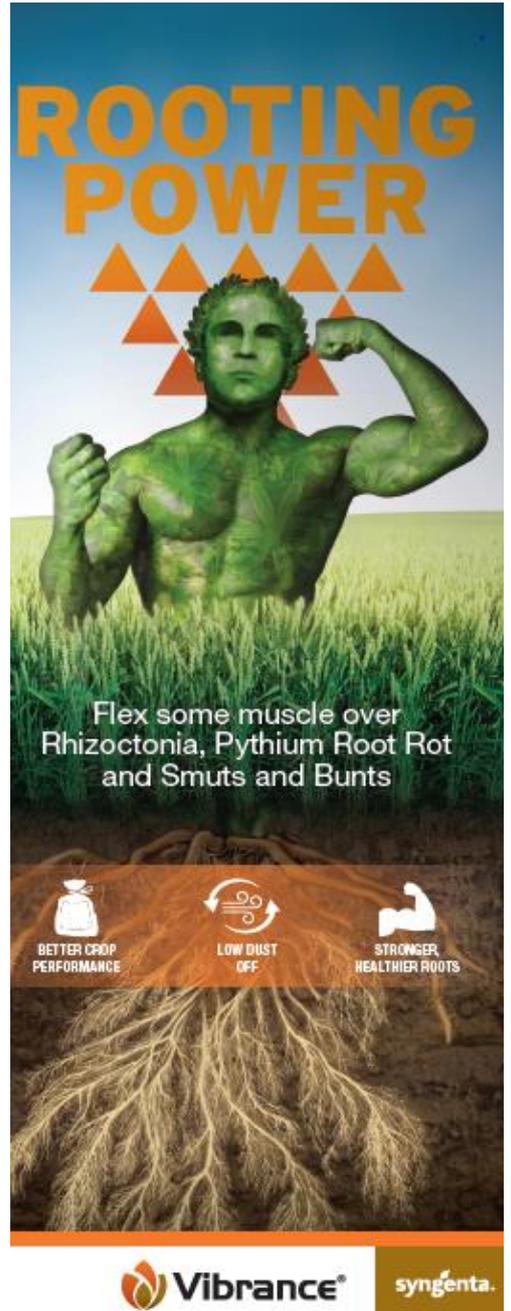
Soil testing should be undertaken in the next few weeks in order to determine the nutrients available to the sown crop. Carry over nutrient levels may be higher this season as most budgeted for a normal rainfall year prior to the last crop sown. Deep N tests will also be completed over the next month or so. We hire a unit for these so our guys run on a tight schedule with those. Call any of the FJ agro's to have this taken care of or to assist in your decision making.

Seed cleaning is also on the radar with local contractor's diaries chockablock.

Most farmers growing Hindmarsh, Latrobe and Spartacus barley will have noticed the increase in loose smut in recent years. This is due to these varieties being highly susceptible to these pests. Loose smut has a negative effect on yield as well as a zero tolerance to smut contaminated grain in the export arena. The most effective way to overcome these potential issues is to apply the recommended rate of products with either Carboxin or the SDHI fungicides Vibrance or Evergol to the seed at cleaning.

Seed supply is a challenge in most seasons but after a particularly dry year sourcing quality seed is especially difficult. Please flag your requirements sooner rather than later as supply and price have already tested our blokes out!

If you need a sounding board or second opinion on any of these topics, please call one of our broadacre agro's for assistance.



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Pasture

With daytime temperatures staying on the upper end of the scale and soils continuing to be very dry, **summer weeds** have become increasingly challenging to control. If you still have some weeds to take care of consideration needs to be given to product choice. Glyphosate will become less effective in the current dry period as plants begin to naturally shut down under the stresses that they endure in the field – similar to us really! A switch to Grammoxone or Spray Seed may be a better option and obviously an appropriate adjuvant or conditioner added to the tank will also be advantageous in gaining a better outcome.

Have a chat with our Agro's for more advice on product choice and application best practice or if you wish to have a paddock inspection and recommendation please do not hesitate in calling our stores.

We have started to organise our **Aerial Fert Spreading** campaign for 2019 with an anticipation of having pasture nutrition on the ground in the not too distant future.

Spreading fertiliser across the steeper grazing country of the Northern Barossa ranges is a relatively straightforward operation. As in all nutrient applications, increased production in otherwise inaccessible country is certainly worthwhile. In terms of cost, this is also relative to expected increases in pasture production and livestock returns.

If you haven't participated previously it might be appropriate to give Anthony a call at the Nuri store. We will obviously need to cover off the volumes required for increases in the spread area so would encourage a conversation sooner rather than later to take care of this.

Pasture Seed has continued to be a flag for those clients anticipating some pasture renovation projects this autumn. As time has elapsed since harvest our suppliers have warned of some variety shortages due to poor harvest volumes and less than ideal germination tests in the cleaning and accumulation process.

We would therefore recommend prompt action in orders and on farm deliveries as soon as seed is available.

Again, give any of the Farmer Johns team a call for further information, orders or technical help in paddock planning.

“with you in the **GROWING** business”

Livestock

Vaccinate the flock

We have flagged the need to be proactive in maintaining the annual vaccination program. As per Zoetis Survive to Thrive program talk to our team and review your planned actions.

Performance Feeds MagPlus

Sheep graze close to the ground. They are selective when choosing each mouthful, so they usually find the best bits of the paddock. Soil often contaminates the plant material eaten by sheep.

Whether the basal forage is dry or green, sheep often need dietary assistance. Nutritional diseases including grass tetany and milk fever can be negated with good supplementation of magnesium and calcium. Fertility, weight gain and wool quality and directly affected by more than one mineral and vitamin.

Start making MagPlus available to ewes 3 to 4 weeks prior to lambing. Maintain this administration program post lambing for 3 to 4 weeks as well, to assist the ewe flock replenish the vacuum of nutrients removed over the lambing period .

Pinkeye might be more common this season as a higher presence of flies and dustier paddock conditions increase the risk of infection. Pinkeye is a highly infectious bacterial disease of cattle that results in eye inflammation, ulceration, corneal scarring and possible blindness.

Infected stock should ideally be segregated and treated early to reduce the longer-term impact on the animal's production capacity. It is almost impossible to avoid, but yarding animals in dry, dusty conditions is likely to increase eye irritation and transmission to susceptible animals.

Coopers Piliguard is the only vaccine available in Australia for the prevention of pinkeye. If you routinely deal with infected animals then it might be well worthwhile considering vaccinating with Piliguard 3-6 weeks before the onset of the pinkeye season.

Alternatively treat the eye with a topical product and place a patch over it to eliminate further fly and dust contact whilst it heals.



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