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Call us to organise enrolment in a Chemcert refresher course in the coming months to ensure ongoing accreditation as well as supply of agchem products.

There are a range of options somewhere near you!

Viticulture/Horticulture

Spotlight Plus - Put the Spotlight on the Suckers

Viticulturists and orchardists looking for an efficient means of sucker control in vines and tree crops can look to Spotlight Plus® for a faster and significantly less expensive alternative than manual de-suckering.

As the only herbicide registered for sucker control in grapevines, olives, plums and other tree crops, using Spotlight Plus requires less labour than the manual alternative whilst also reducing the risk of disease borne by manual de-suckering wounds.

A non-residual contact herbicide, Spotlight Plus is designed to maximise efficacy and reduce drift. It is widely used for de-suckering in vines and tree crops, haulm desiccation in potatoes, and for control of hard-to-kill broadleaf weeds such as small flowered mallow when tank-mixed with knockdown herbicides.

According to Shaun Falkenberg, Spotlight Plus was purpose built for horticulture and is formulated with a built-in oil adjuvant.

"With the oil component in Spotlight Plus there is a reduction in fine spray droplets that minimises drift," he said. "It has excellent safety in vines and tree crops because the active constituent is not translocated within the plant."

However, Shaun added, "off-target drift can potentially injure desirable foliage, fruit and stems if standard drift reduction measures are not taken".

"A directed or fully shrouded sprayer is recommended, as well as nozzles that produce coarse to very coarse spray quality."

Air induction nozzles are also preferred and off-centre nozzles are a further means of reducing upwards movement of the spray solution.

"Because Spotlight Plus is a contact herbicide, ensure that the recommended water volume is applied for thorough coverage of leaves and stems for optimum control," said Shaun.

Sucker control should be conducted in the early growing season, prior to shoot lignification.

Weeds

Most vineyards will have had a residual herbicide applied. The dry conditions may compromise the effectiveness of these herbicides as moisture should be present for the active ingredients' normal activity on weeds.

Keep an eye on germinating weeds over the next weeks. Basta or other herbicides might need to be applied as a cleanup.

Please call any of the Horti techo's for further assistance with weed control in a dry spring.

Seasonal reminders

- Hay season has started – call for all twine wrap and net requirements.
- Gallagher strip grazing systems might be useful in grazing management of non-viable grain crops. Call the FJ team for info on battery and mains systems for this task.

- Special on Supercoat Adult dog food. Buy 2 bags for \$90 or single bags for \$47 each (inc's GST)
- Drop your Electrocoup snips in by the end of October for their annual service and get a free can of Electrocoup grease.
- Calibrate vineyard sprayers before the start of the spray season!

- Philmac fittings, poly pipe and troughs for all domestic, irrigation and stock water supply.
- We have a large range of garden fertiliser in stock to rev up the spring flush as well as a range of quality Gardena hoses and fittings.
- Please return all Chep pallets to our yards as soon as possible.



Unfortunately, our local farming regions have joined most other Australian farming regions in being uncomfortably dry with little chance of any rainfall on the horizon!

With moisture reserves now depleted we have reached that point in the season where the tough decisions are having to be made in regards to the current crops future – leave it grow on for grain, cut the crop for hay or turn the stock in to salvage some value.

It is obvious that these are critical decisions that can have a serious financial implication on the farm business as well.

While the fodder market continues with some strength hay in many cases is probably the most logical option.

Most local croppers have also been involved in hay production so have existing and established relationships for hay disposal already.

Our broadacre agro's can assist in assessing

vulnerable crops and help analyse the financial pro's and con's applicable to their particular circumstance.

Frost damage is also evident in some grain crops as well as in some vineyards located in susceptible areas.

Even though these environmental challenges are part and parcel of the agricultural sector they are still difficult to deal with both from a financial and psychological perspective.

A good snippet of advice recently circulated was to simply make decisions on the facts you are facing now, not wishes or hope! Sure, circumstances might change in the next few weeks but they may not too!

Your actions should be driven on the reality that you face now and not what might be the scenario in the next month or so.

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Sometimes one pays most for the things one gets for nothing."

Albert Einstein

The active constituent in Spotlight, carfentrazone-ethyl, is a unique molecule that interacts with the plant's photosynthetic system to form highly active compounds. These compounds rupture the plant cell membranes, resulting in the cell contents leaking out to cause rapid cell death. Because this mode of action is connected with photosynthesis, sunlight is essential for expression of herbicidal activity.

Spotlight Plus shows robust and consistent control of hard-to-kill broadleaf weeds. It has excellent compatibility with both glyphosate and paraquat based herbicides for broad-spectrum tree and vine line weed control. The ability to alternate modes of action of the knockdown herbicide assists in preventing weed resistance.

Spotlight Plus is also registered for potato haulm desiccation, proving to be highly effective in killing potato plant stems and stopping regrowth, thereby minimising crop damage during potato harvest.

For more information on using Spotlight Plus this spring contact your Farmer Johns adviser.

New app to help manage powdery mildew

Help is at hand when it comes to managing the fundamentals of powdery mildew control in grapes this season, thanks to the release of a new app by AgNova Technologies. It takes more than just a quality product to achieve good results from a powdery mildew control program.

Applying the right products at the right rate and achieving good spray coverage is essential. This app helps to get the calculations right for vines.

Best results from fungicides are only achieved when rates are accurately calculated to the dilute or concentrate spray volumes needed for the vines at their current growth stage. That's where the new Spray Volume Calculator app will come into its own. Growers can select a canopy size, canopy type, such as sprawling or vertical shoots, row spacing and the product's recommended rate. With this information, the app will calculate the full dilute spray volume needed for the vines. It can also provide a concentrate rate, depending on the preferred spraying method.

The Spray Volume Calculator app is available for Apple or Android phones or tablets with results stored for better record keeping.

With many grape growers spraying six or seven times a season for powdery mildew, the full dilute spray volume may change throughout the growing season as the canopy develops. Recalculating the spray volume will be easier with the app and will ensure the correct concentration is used at each application.

Fungicide sprays should be applied to the point of run off, not only on the outside of the canopy, but inside as well! Better spray coverage and accurate rates can only improve the performance of spray applications and subsequently the quality of fruit at the end of the season. Our viti advisers can assist growers with calibrating spray equipment to ensure the best possible coverage throughout the canopy.

Flute.

Flute has been around for five years in Australian vineyards, providing a quality emulsion in water formulation and a high level of crop safety. It can be used in conjunction with Kusabi as part of a complete powdery control program. Flute has a unique mode of action and therefore provides extremely effective powdery mildew disease control including those strains resistant to other fungicide groups.

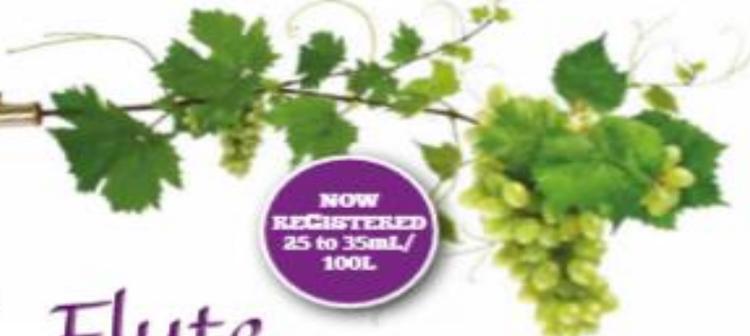
The Flute label has recently changed to allow for lower rates where spraying was more frequent. The old label rate was 35 ml/100 L for spray intervals between 10 and 21 days. Now growers can use 25 ml/100 L if they are spraying every 7 to 10 days.

We recommend that you consult with our viticulture team on a regular basis over the course of any year to ensure that any product label updates are recognised within your spray programs and record keeping.

If you haven't done this yet for season 2018 please give them a call prior to kickoff!

THE RIGHT INSTRUMENT FOR POWDERY MILDEW CONTROL IN GRAPES

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- ♪ Strong vapour action & locally systemic
- ♪ Unique mode of action to control resistant strains
- ♪ Apply to E-L 31 for grapes grown for export wine



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SPOTLIGHT PLUS[®]
HERBICIDE

THE VERSATILE HORTICULTURAL HERBICIDE

✓ Fast Acting ✓ Maximise Activity ✓ Reduces Drift

Purpose Built for Horticulture

Spotlight Plus[®] was specifically formulated for horticulture with a built-in oil to give the following benefits:

- ✓ Increased efficiency of weed control, sucker control and haulm desiccation
- ✓ Reduced fine droplets that minimises drift. Grapevines are very sensitive to carfentrazone and spotting of canopy can easily occur - hence the desuckering registration.
- ✓ No need to add any further oil or surfactants including LI700[®]

Here's what Spotlight can do...

Grapevine shoots treated with Spotlight Plus



14 days after treatment

Broadacre Cropping

Off target crop damage

As we move from late winter and spring chemical applications into the warmer months of the year increased caution should be a priority to ensure the risk of off target damage is negated.

As an example, changes to the 2,4D label for summer spraying have occurred. Applicators need to use very coarse droplets with reduced speed and boom heights when spraying 2,4D.

Obviously, the diverse spread of agriculture sees susceptible horticulture crops adjacent to broadacre crops in traditional pasture and broadacre regions.

This is not a one-way street as horticulturalists will also need to be aware of the products they apply so

that they in turn don't contaminate grazing pastures and subsequently compromise meat residues and crops that are ready to harvest for fodder or grain. We are aware of 200ha of cotton having been knocked out this year as a result of inversion drift. Products such as 2,4D are under a constant spotlight in terms of their registration longevity in our agricultural systems. It is therefore up to all individuals in the industry to take on responsibility in maintaining our collective social license to farm. Ensuring these products can remain in our valuable chemistry portfolio whilst maintaining good relations with our neighbors should of course be a priority!

Harvest and grain storage

As the cropping season rapidly draws to a close consideration should be given to cleaning grain storage silos and sheds to ensure grain remains clean and pest free until it is marketed. Using an approved insecticide within these storage areas is obviously recommended to also protect Australia's grain markets.

Check with any of the Farmer Johns team to discuss the most appropriate product to use in your situation.

Seed

Given the likely tight seed supply heading into 2019 it might be prudent to discuss your seed requirements particularly early this year. This will apply especially to canola seed but also is a flag for all other varieties. Don't put this one off for too long.

Pasture

With the spring pasture season rapidly drawing to a premature close and feed stocks still very low, there are one or two key lessons to carry forward to next season.

Stand out performers in the dry winter have been the deep rooting perennial legumes, herbs and grasses; lucerne, chicory, phalaris and cocksfoot, which have clung on and made the best use of what little rain has fallen. Although tricky to establish, and more so in a difficult autumn, once established they have provided the backbone of winter and spring grazing and hay production for the drier areas.

Our own trials have shown the difficulty of establishing lucerne after a summer crop, such as sorghum, that has drilled deep into sub soil moisture reserves, leaving nothing for the following crop. This year, where rainfall has been marginal and has not replenished these reserves, lucerne seedlings have struggled.

The take home message is if you are contemplating an opportunistic summer crop, be aware of rotations and potential rainfall! It would be time to get the crystal ball out!

Medics are flowering well at the moment and, provided they can set seed, promise to provide good numbers of seed pods for stock over the summer as well as a seedbank for next season.

As always, if you require any assistance in pasture decision making processes please utilise our agronomy teams' expertise.

In the meantime, let's keep our fingers crossed for what's left of spring!

Hay

Even though fodder crops haven't performed to expectations the area cut to hay will likely be higher than average as many grain crops are destined to end up as hay.

We have good stocks of net, wrap and twine for all your hay making requirements – give the FJ team a call.



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Livestock

Risks of rats and mice to general produce and buildings

Rats and mice are pesky intruders in the home, farm and work environment, gnawing through timber, wiring and the pantry – as well as causing major economic damage to crop, stored grain and other feedstuffs.

A more insidious and important reason for continual good control of both mice and rat is their growing implication in human health and animal diseases, which is generally overlooked alongside their more visible destructive impact.

Diseases are transmitted to humans and animals via rat and mouse droppings and urine that contaminate the environment, soil, water, feedstuffs, surfaces and the air; and via vermin such as ticks and fleas carried by these rodents.

There are a great many, very important reasons to control rats and mice in your environment, and this is a good time of year to start baiting. Studies of mouse plagues in Australia show the main breeding season is usually from October through to May at least, with peak numbers and potential plague proportions by early autumn.

The easiest way to keep rat and mice populations to a minimum is continual, managed control. In a consistent rodent-baiting program, baits should be checked every week (more often with high populations) to determine activity; to ensure baits are replaced as soon as they are eaten; and to record all details –including bait-station locations, dates checked, and when fresh bait has been added.

Call into our stores for Tomcat bait and bait stations!

2018 Spring/Pre-Summer Sheep Information Seminar

Friday 19th Oct 2018

From 8:30am to 11:30am at our Nuriootpa store
53 Railway Tce, Nuriootpa, SA, 5355

Speakers:

Chris Van Dissel - Senior Animal Health Advisor
PIRSA Bio security

Wayne Clonan - Bayer Animal Health AVENGE
New label for fly control in long wool & VIPER new
lice control for off shears

Mary Chirgwin - Zoetis Drench & drench
resistance

Paul Brotherton – Audioextra Farm/property
security & surveillance

RSVP: Randall Verco or call the Nuriootpa store

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Offer available until October 31st 2018.
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