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**On July 30, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) published its proposed decisions on the reconsideration of paraquat and diquat.** The proposed removal of higher rates of use are concerning and further compound the flexibility and practical options available to Australian farmers. Non-agricultural situations, including around sheds, roadways, paths and firebreaks are also to be removed along with registrations in orchards, vineyards and pasture, including spray topping for prevention of annual ryegrass toxicity.

**We encourage all clients to log in via the AVPMA web site and complete the Public Consultation Document – [Paraquat Public Consultation Document](#) before the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2024**

**Chemcert Chemical User Licenses** are required for the purchase of a range of products used in farm productions systems.

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July certainly provided some moisture relief with most regions achieving reasonable fall totals over the course of the month. A few dryish spots remain and a recent run of frosts and cold days

have continued to hold winter crops back.

It will be nice to score a few more rainy spells during August but I'm sure we are all over the cold!

I have been banging on about the importance of supporting products manufactured by Research and Development companies as long as we have been here at FJs. These "big guys" continue to pour big dollars into programs that identify, develop and distribute new actives to ensure our farming systems remain productive, sustainable and competitive.

We had a number of these suppliers represented at our recent Annual Viti Tech update. As a result of this ongoing investment, several new products will be available for use in vines this season.

Most of you will have seen the recent announcement regarding the result of the glyphosate class action

that began last year here in Australia. Bayer welcomed the Federal Court of Australia's ruling in favour of Monsanto on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. The decision is consistent with worldwide regulatory and scientific assessments, including from the APVMA, that support that glyphosate (Roundup) is safe and non-carcinogenic.

Last year (2023), the EU Commission re-approved glyphosate for 10 years, following the favourable scientific assessments by its health and safety agencies, which 'did not identify any critical areas of concern' impacting public health or the environment in their review of glyphosate in July 2023.

Bayer has defended this molecule without any financial support from other stakeholders despite the volumes of glyphosate those players move into the market. I personally believe Bayer deserve some reciprocal support for their Roundup brand to reward them for defending the use of glyphosate in our farming systems.

**Greg Schubert**

## Quote of the Month

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Broadacre

The current difficult season continues with only light rainfall forecast over the first weeks of August. As crops continue to rely on shallow soil moisture any prolonged dry spell applies significant additional pressure. These dry spells also seem to coincide with serious frost events, ramping up both crop and operator stress levels as well. Crop growth rates have obviously been retarded due to these recent adverse weather conditions which will only increase dependence on spring rainfall to determine the ultimate outcome of our season.

An additional pressure point in most crops this season is **the heavy weed population** that is now being dealt with, especially ryegrass. Sometimes questions are asked about the importance of pre-em's and other early weed control strategies. However, as a result of no knockdowns applied over the dry sowing period coupled with marginal soil moisture limiting the efficacy of any pre-emergent, **the importance of this early management of weeds is very evident this season!**

Initial grass herbicide applications have been made across most legume and canola crops. Herbicide labels will generally caution against applications in adverse weather conditions, including cold temperatures, frost and moisture stress. Unfortunately, not only are croppers facing high weed densities, because of weed stage Clethodim tank mixes are being applied in very cold and adverse – even frosty conditions. The Clethodim activity will certainly be compromised under these environmental challenges. Robust rates have therefore been the order of the day with the inclusion of Factor in the ..cont page 2/

## Seasonal reminders

- Clean up the weeds around the yard and sheds with a new 12 volt ute pack – sizes from 50 – 200ltr.
- Manage limited feed options better with a Gallagher electric fencing system as well strip grazing and stock exclusion on tree lines etc.
- Return all Chep pallets, 1000ltr shuttles and 110ltr Enviro's ASAP.

- Spiders, millipedes and other insects will get active over the next few weeks - spray Ficam or Coopex barrier residuals around the house.
- Trellis posts are readily available in most sizes – call for all quotes and orders to ensure availability.
- Rats and mice are still active - keep up the Storm bait supply around the house and farm yard.

- Castrol oils and grease always in stock. Give us a call for orders and quotes and to arrange deliveries on 205ltr drums.
- New poly lines are easier to install in damp conditions - free use of our poly pipe layer on new Vinidex pipe purchases.
- Check out our range of dog and cat food always in stock.

from page 1... tank mix to ensure effective weed control is still achieved. Availability of these actives will become an issue as the season moves forward.

Although grass weeds have been the focus across most winter cropping regions, we have also seen **an increase in broadleaf weed populations** in season 2024 as well. The Central region of SA can boast about its broadleaf weed profile without challenge! The usual range of targets include Wild Radish, Tares, Marshmallow, medics and volunteer legumes. Wireweed germinations have appeared over the last fortnight. Capeweed appears to be more prolific this season than in recent years. Products such as Lontrel, Broadside or Velocity have all been products of choice in the arsenal targeting this weed.

**Insects such as Red Legged Earth Mite** have been very active over the past month. Populations have grown over the cold days of July and damage is now occurring in legume crops where early insecticide applications have run past their residual period. Follow up applications with an appropriate product should be considered.

Lucerne Flea infestations are also building in many crops our agro's are checking. These pests can also inflict serious damage in both legume and cereal crops if threshold numbers are left unchecked.

Either LeMat (omethoate) or Danodim (dimethoate) are the insecticides of choice for both RLEM and Lucerne Flea

**Nutrition applications** over the spring growing period are important in assisting crops to reach maximum yields. Early top ups of zinc, manganese and copper will help plants recover from the stress of winter and improve early vigour. ZMC can be tank mixed with herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. Omni Boost-K and Omni PULSE are both bio-enhanced foliar applied products from Omnia. These products will also assist the crop overcome stresses and improve root growth over this critical growth period.

**Nitrogen supplementation is also important** as crops develop and forms the backbone of most winter crop nutrient programs. Domestic urea prices are stable at the moment and the soft A\$ indicates that there is little chance of pricing coming off in the short term. Most N supply channels are full at the moment with slow dispatches as a consequence of recent low rainfall totals. However, the BOM continue to be bullish on their three-monthly spring rainfall forecast. The big watch out is how much additional urea will actually be available when this wet spring kicks in. **Easy N is readily available** for customers looking for a quick response from a foliar applied nitrogen.

The **new Corteva product Utrisha N** has an important role in situations where low or no rainfall events have held up the supply of plant available N. Utrisha N is a biological product that fixes nitrogen from the air into the plant. Subsequent to application, the naturally occurring bacteria continue to populate the plant and so Utrisha N provides an ongoing supplemental nitrogen supply over the life of the plant.

## Pasture

Feed is still tight as pastures have also been impacted by the cold and frosty conditions over recent weeks. On farm hay supplies are pretty much non-existent as hay is still being offered to supplement the poor pastures.

Replenishing the hay stocks will be a bit of a focus over the next couple months. Ultimately spring rainfall will be a bit of a determining factor in this regard. It may be opportune to sort a spring pasture top dress to boost both feed availability and hay production. Have a chat to one of our agro's about your fodder targets and determine the most beneficial product to use in your situation.

**Insect pests** are active and hungry! They should be treated to limit damage in all pastures, not just the legume-based paddocks. Always ensure the withholding periods are adhered to, especially for any livestock destined for the saleyards or for slaughter.

**Weed control** is well underway across most pasture as well. Some larger broadleaf weeds have survived since the germinations after the heavy falls back in Jan and Feb. These plants will require a heavier rate to manage than more recent younger germinations.

As feed is at a premium this season, grass weed control should be weighed up against the grazing value that those species might offer in the short term this season. Some **spring pasture sowing will take place** over the next few weeks as summer irrigation fires up over the next few weeks. FJs have a comprehensive range of seed options on hand including forage maize, sorghum and summer active lucerne varieties. Please contact our agro's for additional advice on summer forage crops.

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Viticulture

Planning for the rapidly approaching 2024 viticulture growing season should be well in hand. Budburst will be upon us in just a few weeks, based on the dry year to date, the season may kick off a little earlier than usual as well.

**Early season nutrition programs** should be addressed as soon as possible. These plans will need to take into account any soil and petiole results received over the last 12 months. It is far easier and more economical to address these deficiencies before the season begins rather than playing “catch up” via foliar applied products over the course of the growing season. Specific elements can be included in any under vine treatments that might be spread prior to budburst.

**July rainfall has certainly assisted the moisture bank in the upper soil profile.** However, this is really rather superficial as the deep profile remains relatively dry. Check in with moisture probes or talk to our agro’s about the opportunity to utilise some irrigations pre-budburst to incorporate nutrients further into the profile.

**Salinity has also shown its ugly head** in a number of locations in our viti regions over the dry summer months. Typically, we would see some of these salt deposits moved back down through the profile with winter rainfall. Given the lower than ideal rainfall year to date these deposits can be managed in the same manner with calcium applied via early irrigation.

Although last summer was a relatively low-pressure season, any **late season and overwintering Powdery infections will always present a risk** in the early weeks after budburst. There were some disease hotspots after the late summer rains in January and February this year. Check these high-risk areas in your blocks to assist in managing any disease that may be latent over the winter.

A thorough review of the fungicide program should also be undertaken before the new season begins. This process will identify any rotation and potential resistance issues that might compromise disease management over the course of the season.

A brief overview on two new fungicide options were provided at our Annual Technical update a couple weeks ago.

It may be appropriate to include new actives in to ramp up your fungicide program and to alternate older, over used compounds. Under vine knockdown herbicides have been sprayed out on most vineyards over the last few weeks. **Herbicide resistance has become a big issue in our vineyards over recent seasons.**

Tough spray conditions can also enhance the incidence of weed resistance. Pre-emergent herbicide options should be included in weed management plans to also offer more robust control of resistant species. Pre-emergents will perform best on bare soils or, at the very least, where soils are covered with minimal trash. Some products will require rainfall or irrigation for incorporation into the soil. **The new product Alion** residual herbicide from Bayer offers up to 10 months control. We recommend all growers try a pack of Alion this season to experience its effectiveness in their situation.

Give our agro’s a call to discuss any of these matters as well as any other viti issue you are dealing with.

Citrus & Orchard

Most nutrition programs have been finalised with product formulation in the system. We are aware of some potential shipping challenges on imported raw materials over the coming months. Australian routes are out of favour with most sea freight operators as Northern Hemisphere ports offer more lucrative rates financially. We have opted to take more of our seasonal volumes early to avoid delivery issues into the spring. Only time will determine what this looks like further down the track.

**Soil and tissue tests** will assist in determining nutrient availability leading into flowering and fruit set. Some early ZM2 applications might be warranted if deficiencies are present.

**Phos Acid** applications targeting soil borne diseases, such as Phytophthora and root cankers, can be made over the root flush period later in August and early Sept when the weather warms a little.

**Herbicide programs** should be in play now as treating weeds while they are quite small will result in better, more economical control. The new product **Alion** could be incorporated into the program this season, providing up to 10 months residual control on a range of difficult weeds.



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## Animal Production & General Merchandise

The **shearing season** has kicked off a bit more earnestly over the last few weeks. We have a comprehensive range of stock to cover your wool shed requisites including woolpacks, fasteners, branding fluid, brushes, brooms, ink and stencils etc.

Shearing obviously provides the opportunity to inspect sheep thoroughly for other health related issues and of course to treat and protect the flock from lice infestation. Elanco have an attractive offer on their range of pour-on products, **Extinosad and Viper** as per the ad below.

**Drenching and booster vaccinations might also be on the radar over the spring period.**

Booster vaccinations should be given 4 – 6 weeks after the priming vaccinations. If these follow up shots aren't administered within this correct time period, the vaccination program will have to be started again including the initial priming shots.

The flock should also be offered some support to assist them deal with a likely **escalation in internal worm burdens over spring**. Ideally drenches should be selected after worm checks are completed to ensure the product is targeting the particular parasite species present. We can assist in both the collection of faecal samples as well as the interpretation of test results and subsequent product recommendations.

As the cold and drier than average winter has continued, nutrition for both sheep and cattle continues to be a concern for most graziers. Supplementary feeding has continued, supported by **loose licks and blocks to cover the nutrition gap where poorer quality feed has been the only available feed option.**

Please contact any of our stores to discuss all of these livestock matters specific to your situation and management plan.

**Water storage** capacity could be addressed over the remaining weeks of winter and into spring. Most will be a little nervous about filling the rainwater reserves given the low rainfall totals to date! A dry year always puts a bit of pressure on water reserves and tests the storage capacity, especially toward the end of summer. FJs supports a range of tank manufacturers, most have supply availability at 2 to 4 week delivery times. Call our team for quotes and orders.

We have a comprehensive range of **posts, wire, gates and associated fencing material** on hand. Obviously, pricing is a discussion point when product selections are made for new fencing projects. However, the purchase decision should also consider the quality of the product and the expected longevity of material when it is placed into our harsh environment.

Although a little more expensive than imported products the Waratah range still represents outstanding value based on the life expectancy once they are erected in a fence line.

Always make sure that wire is tied to steel posts with Waratah Tie Fasteners and never drag plain wire lines through the holes in steel posts as the sharp edges on those holes will remove the protective coating on the wire.

Call any of the FJ stores to sort all your fencing projects.

**Spring garden care** will always start from the ground up. Boost soil fertility with any of the Neutrog fertiliser range. Originally Neutrog was best known for their Rapid Raiser product but in recent years Sudden Impact, Upsurge, POPUL8, Seamungus, Blade Runner, Whooflungdung and GOGO Juice have all become household names. We have a range of these products in stock in pack sizes suited to both home garden and commercial use. Call our stores for orders.

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