

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Fungicides in winter crops.
2. Check out surviving grass weeds.
3. Spring pasture nutrition.
4. Spring horticulture kick off.
5. Get ready for shearing.

Send your top seasonal farm shots to us for a chance to have them featured in our 2027 calendar!

2027 CALENDAR COMPETITION!

Your farm photo here!



Photo competition closes at the end of August.



SA's broadacre croppers have to be very happy with the season thus far. Despite the BOMs drier forecast for the months ahead, good falls look like consolidating

the crop potential in the next week or so. While broadacre businesses are very positive this season after limping through three consecutive dry years, our viti industry is under serious pressure. Pressure is evident across the entire industry, from growers right through to wine retailers and probably consumers as everyone deals with the "cost of living" challenges.

We reviewed the past season at our viti brekky last week. We discussed current industry matters and introduced new products and technologies that we are likely to see in the season ahead.

We all know that there are still positive opportunities in wine grape production. Some wine businesses are still demonstrating growth despite the negativity that has taken hold across all global viticulture.

Local wine processors are obviously making serious decisions to preserve their viability. Overhauling business structures, staff levels and rationalising vineyard holdings. Individual family businesses also need to focus on the things that can be controlled and that can make a positive difference within your own enterprise more than ever before.

While the Barossa has some of the oldest varietal vine plantings in the world and is recognised as an iconic wine region, you need to be brutally honest within your own business and take care of yourself and family as a "selfish" priority. That may in turn reflect on what happens in your vineyard, in the machinery shed and workshop and of course in your home office.

I also appreciate this is an easy matter for me to discuss here. However in reality, decisions about heritage, tradition and expected succession of family properties are also very stressful and difficult!

Greg Schubert

Quote of the Month

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

- Mark Twain

Broadacre

Fungicides have been in the spotlight in the last few weeks with crops growing away under ideal moisture conditions, conditions that also favour disease development.

Most crops have had early fungicide applications completed with a growing number receiving their second cover in the last week or so. Net form of net blotch, powdery mildew and leaf rust have all been an issue in local crops. Given the green bridge over summer, we expect Stripe rust will also be an issue in wheat. Septoria and Yellow Leaf Spot will also be a risk given the hours of leaf wetness that has existed in all crops.

Oats have Bacterial Blight and to a lesser degree Red Leather leaf. Protection is critical in a timely manner to ensure WHP's are met prior to cutting oat crops for hay. Some fungicides such as Soprano have an ESI which can be an issue if the fodder is destined for the feedlot market. Be very aware of the fungicide selected for use on hay crops and always adhere to label precautions.

Pulse crops have kicked into gear too! Lentils will require a canopy closure fungicide for Ascochyta and Grey Mould. Be aware that some pulse marketers are highlighting maximum residue limits (MRLs) and recommending against the application of certain fungicides. It is very important to choose the correct fungicide when conditions favour disease development.

It is critical to protect Faba bean crops as they begin to flower. Yield potential is determined by the effectiveness of the protection provided to both the canopy and flowers.

....cont page 2



We are pleased to welcome Gordon Childs to the FJs team. He has a strong background in all horticulture crops and is well known across SA

Seasonal reminders

- The current grain season looks far better than the last few – call us now to order your supply of grain bags!
- Avoid crop damage and use All Clear DS to remove all residues from spray tanks, lines & nozzles.
- Don't forget, we always have a deal on some brand of dog food!

- We have a full range of batteries in stock for cars, trucks and tractors – don't get caught out on those cold mornings, call any of the FJs stores
- Throw some Nuetrog on the garden beds in readiness for the spring season. Full range of bagged products in store.
- Use Alion herbicide along fence lines and sheds for residual weed control.

- Manage spring insect invasion under the back verandah, in pet housing and chook sheds with Ficam W.
- Full range of poly pipe and Philmac fittings in stock – it's way easier to install when the ground is damp before the summer pressure starts!
- Please flag your preferred Canola seed requirements for the 2027 season. We are compiling forecasts.

"with you in the *GROWING* business"

from page 1/... Canola has good levels of disease protection from newer seed treatments such as Saltro Duo. Black Leg has been an issue in a number of crops. Fungicide applications have also been beneficial for powdery mildew control.

Please check in with our agro's to assist in determining the requirement for a final fungicide on canola for black leg and sclerotinia.

Insect pests are very active in crops across our entire region including the Murraylands and Mallee. Insecticides are likely to be required earlier in the season than in recent years. Attention should be especially prioritised to legumes and canola crops. Aphids not only feed directly on the foliage of the crop but also spread virus's which will impact yield. The heavy canopies this season are a perfect breeding ground. Monitor crops for infections prior to spraying fungicides to ensure aphids don't become an issue later in the season.

Our FJs agro's are available to assist with crop monitoring and pest identification – please give them a call sooner rather than later!

Nitrogen applications have been made in a timely manner over the course of the season. Regular rain events have enabled efficient nitrogen use. Early elevated urea costs have eased to an affordable level providing a window to still stimulate yield and protein potential. Urea and Easy N is available for prompt dispatch. It should also be considered for blocks with a cereal on cereals crop. These crops have commonly started to show signs of nitrogen deficiency. It is also important to cover off any pre flowering trace element deficiencies to maximise yield, especially on crops sown into lighter soils types.

Phosphate fertilisers have been a talking point in recent weeks given the issues around the supply of sulphuric acid from the Middle East. Prices are currently quite expensive. We are assessing the current situation in conjunction with industry and suppliers and will provide ongoing updates as this situation evolves.

Ideal soil moisture saw the benefit of our current portfolio of pre-emergent herbicides. While initial weed control has for the most part, been very efficient the post emergent herbicide options have done a decent job on subsequent weed populations. **Ryegrass continues to be a difficult target on most farms and will be in the future as well.** Any grass weed populations that have been difficult to control could be tested for

herbicide resistance. Determining suspect grasses for resistance is a straight forward process. Simply collect plant or seed samples and forward them for lab analysis. Our agro's can assist in this process as well as developing an action plan to include appropriate future rotations and in crop herbicide options.

One weed that shouldn't be overlooked is Skeleton Weed. It is a declared species and therefore needs to be taken into account in all weed control programs. Please take some time to check your crops and take some early action in its control, especially if Skeleton Weed has been present in the past. Late season stands of maturing Skeleton weed can cause major drama's at harvest and will also generate more prolific populations in future cropping rotations.

Don't hesitate in calling any of the FJs agro's for any of these issues or other winter cropping matters you wish to discuss in further detail.

Pasture

Pastures have slowed up a little as a consequence of the colder conditions over the last few weeks. Most graziers have an adequate supply of fodder on hand to maintain livestock during this critical time. ProGibb is also an ideal tool to use on perennial pastures during this period. It will rapidly boost pasture growth to also assist in meeting your livestock feed requirements.

Spring applications of **nutrition can be used to assist pasture growth over this prime growing period.** NPK supplements tailored to your pastures profile will benefit both grazing and hay production later in spring. We have a range of options available ex our branch warehouses. Please give any of the FJs team a call to discuss these opportunities relevant to your situation and pasture type. **Insect pests will also increase their activity** in the weeks ahead. Although their damage can be severe it is somewhat disguised by the spring flush. As in all other situations, Insects should be controlled in a timely manner.

Some **spring pasture sowing will take place** once soil temperatures begin to rise later in August. FJs have a comprehensive range of seed options in store including forage maize, sorghum and summer active lucerne varieties.

Please contact our agro's for additional advice on summer forage crops and grazing management to maximise their contribution to your enterprise.



Revitalise your vineyards with Mega-Kel-P®

- Improved fruit size & retention
- Increased nutrient uptake
- Enhanced plant health
- Promotes yield & quality



Mega-Kel-P



Downy mildew?

The answer is KEYBRI® Ultra.

With two modes of action, one hour rainfastness, no mixing required, re-entry once dry, and up to 21 days protection, KEYBRI® Ultra answers all your questions about downy mildew. And delivers superior results.



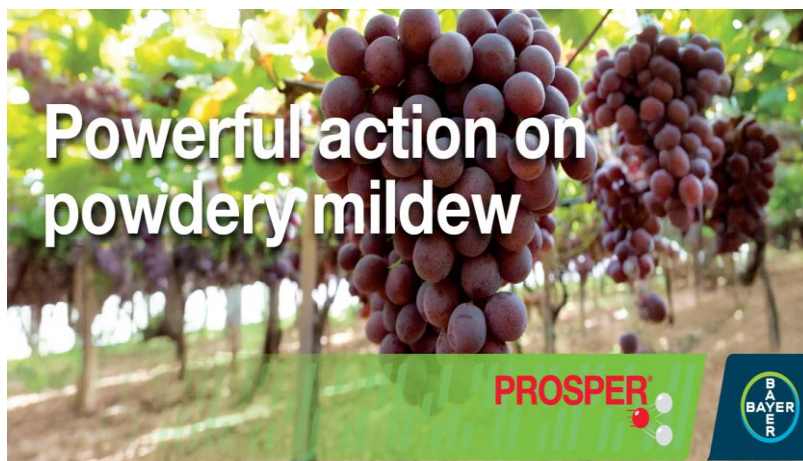
For further information talk to your local Syngenta representative or visit Syngenta.com.au/keybri-ultra

© Registered trademark of a Syngenta Group Company. © 2026 Syngenta. AD 26-134.



 Keybri® Ultra

 syngenta.



Powerful action on powdery mildew

PROSPER



“with you in the GROWING business”

Viticulture

The viti season appears to be on the move, evidenced by **green tips visible on some early varieties** in the Lyndoch, Gomersal and Krondorf regions. This will see Barossa budburst at least two weeks earlier than last year! The relatively mild conditions over the earlier weeks of winter have equated to vines cycling through a shorter dormancy period with fewer chilling hours and less frost events than usual. The last couple cold weeks haven't been all that pleasant in terms of living weather though!! Soil temperatures have remained above last year as well which may also be contributing to earlier bud movement.

Soil moisture has certainly improved at depth. Soils across the Barossa are trending to similar moisture levels to those at the same time last year. However, in some locations that have received higher rainfall totals recharge into the subsoil zone at the 120+cm has been higher than at the corresponding time last year. In summary, it is a still bit of a mixed bag with most vineyards accumulating moisture between 80 – 100cm at this point in time. Ideally additional August falls will see these increase further with some runoff generated through the hills where run off into dams might also occur.

Weed control is evident across most of our viticulture regions. Historically Sprayseed has been a significant component of weed management in horticulture. Product in circulation with the original label can still be used up until June 2028. New product labels will no longer have registrations for use in vineyards and other horticulture crops. There is plenty of time remaining to use old labelled paraquat products before 2028.

Several new actives are in the trial work phase but ryegrass management will be challenging until these new herbicides are registered at some stage in the years ahead!

In the interim, pre-emergent herbicides could take a stronger position in vineyard weed management programs. Under vine surface preparation is key to achieving the best outcomes with all residual herbicides. There is still time to apply residuals this year before the season commences.

Please take the opportunity to discuss the most appropriate options with one of the FJs agro's.

Fungicide programs are being finalised for the approaching spray season.

Please review your vineyard protection program with one of our team to ensure it maximises disease control but also fits in with your enterprise's financial capability.

There have been several label changes in the portfolio of products typically included in our local spray programs – Seeker Duo, Miravis and Folpan all fall into this basket.

Botrytis pressure was particularly high toward the end of the season subsequent to the February rain events. It is therefore relevant to expect that there will be a higher spore load present in most wine grape regions going in the 26/27 season. It is also important to rotate botrytis fungicides management resistance.

Orchard, Citrus and Horticulture

Picking is coming to an end across the Riverland. Some later varieties such as Valencia's will prolong harvest a little longer. Citrus orchards are in the first root flush for the season, which is a little earlier than in previous seasons. Buds are starting to swell and push new growth as the new season approaches.

First fertigation applications for the new growing season are underway and will continue over the next few weeks. Nutrient blends include nitrogen, zinc and manganese to assist with flower initiation and early development. Heritage orchards will also benefit with the addition of phosphoric acid to alleviate potential phytophthora root rot and dieback in older trees that are more prone to these insidious diseases!

Please contact Georgie Pater (0448 679 125) if you still need to finalise your seasonal nutrition program or wish to have a fresh set of eyes in your fruit blocks.

As mentioned in our viti section above, all paraquat and diquat horticulture registrations will cease once current labelled products have been used. All new products will only be supplied with new labels. Although the Riverland doesn't have the same challenge with resistant ryegrass, both these actives have been used expensively in weed management programs.

Please review your seasonal herbicide plans with our agro's to ensure a smooth shift to alternative products.



Tri-Base Blue delivers dependable control of key diseases with its best-in-class liquid Copper formulation. Take the next step today.

Superior liquid Copper. Save time and hassle through efficient measuring and handling.
Defend against Downy Mildew. Establish control and sustain it with the two-phase release of copper ions.
More efficient Copper delivery. Small particle size allows less applied Copper without compromising control.

nufarm TRI-BASE BLUE



WUXAL®
Calcium

- Highly concentrated foliar fertiliser
- Xtra Uptake technology for rapid nutrient absorption
- Very high crop safety
- Compatible with other inputs

Xtra Uptake

Innovation. Quality. Solutions.
f X n i agnova.com.au
*Registered trademark, 202011

AgNOVA
Technologies
An American Vanguard Company

ENHANCE PLANT HEALTH, ROOT HEALTH AND YIELD POTENTIAL WITH SUPER KELP

agreva
Sustainable Agriculture

100% Seaweed Extract.
Stimulates root growth and reduces stress

A healthy root system, closely followed by vegetative growth, establishes the ability of the crop to produce.

The benefits include:

- Improved root growth
- Improved tolerance to heat and cold
- Mixes easily with fertiliser
- Increased chlorophyll production
- Increased nutritional value of feed crops
- Improved flower retention and fruit set
- Enhanced seed germination

Organic Certified
sxc
Allowed Input
Cert No. 1001

03 9008 6252
agreva.com



Don't let destructive fungal diseases in vines, berries, almonds and apples get out of control. Use the **ONLY** Group 19 fungicide in Australia.

Manage destructive diseases. Excellent activity on Botrytis and Powdery Mildew in vines and berries.

Ultimate flexibility. A favourable residue profile allows you to spray when required with confidence.

NEW rotational tool. Use the Group 19 biological fungicide, with no known resistance that offers enhanced disease control.

nufarm INTERVENE



Animal Production & General Merch

The **shearing season** has kicked off a bit more earnestly over the last weeks of July. FJs stocks a full range of wool shed requisites including woolpacks, fasteners, branding fluid, brushes, brooms, ink and stencils etc. We also have stocks of Heiniger handpieces and Evo shearing gear and a range of combs and cutters in stock. Give any of our FJs stores a call to sort all of your shearing requirements.

The full muster at shearing time also provides the best opportunity to take care of any outstanding health related issues and of course to treat and protect your flock from lice. Sheep are obviously worth looking after at the moment. Any stock losses through poor health and management short cuts have the potential to impact the financial return of your livestock business to a much higher level.

Please chat to our store staff about the most appropriate lice treatment for your situation and to ensure resistance is also managed effectively.

Booster vaccinations should also be scheduled 4 – 6 weeks after the initial priming vaccination at marking. Based on the lamb numbers in flocks across our district, there are a lot of booster shots to be completed. If these follow up shots aren't administered within the specified timeline the vaccination program will have to be started again including an initial priming dose.

Pasture availability is well in front of similar times over the last couple seasons. **It would be prudent to stay on top of internal parasite infestations earlier this season.** This will especially be the case if we jag some additional rain fall events across our regions in August and September. A simple faecal test should be undertaken and a subsequent drench plan formulated based on the test results. Grab a test kit from any of our stores or call to have one of our staff to assist in both the collection of faecal samples as well as the interpretation of test results and subsequent product recommendations.

Performance Feeds Mag Plus is a beneficial product to use in all ruminant production systems when green feed is available. MagPlus provides an adequate supply of magnesium to assist in the birthing process resulting in less lamb losses. MagPlus will also reduce the incidence of grass tetany which has been an annual challenge for some graziers. It also reduces scouring when stock are feeding on lush green feed which in turn provides a better environment for suckling offspring and reducing the incidence of flystrike. Please speak to any of the FJs store teams for additional info on MagPlus and all other nutritional disorders that you need to address in your livestock production system.

There is still time to maximise farm water storage capacity over the remaining weeks of winter and into spring. Good rainfall to date has probably filled existing storages? Recent dry years have illustrated water storages could always be bigger! FJs sources tanks from a number of manufacturers. Polymaster for one have supply availability on a 1 – 3 week delivery time line.

Electric Fencing is a simple and very effective method of managing grazing rotations when surplus feed is available. Simple set ups utilising the comprehensive range of Gallagher energisers and accessories will alleviate stock trampling forage cereals and spoiling ungrazed pastures. Strip graze paddocks, establish temporary laneways to allow paddocks to regenerate and exclude stock from portions of paddocks destined for hay or silage production. Our store staff can illustrate the benefits and advise on the most appropriate options for your property size and livestock type.



ADAMA

NOW REGISTERED!

Folpan® 800 WG
Beneficial for all.

Protect grapes from fungal diseases
-minimal impact on beneficial insects.



Learn more

ADAMA.COM    

Trademark of an ADAMA Agricultural Solutions Company.

FUNGICIDE



More flexibility, more freedom, more growth

MY ACTION PLAN

Verpixo® Adavelt® active
FUNGICIDE

Grow Strategically

Verpixo® Adavelt® active is now a registered trademark to provide powerful protection from botrytis and powdery mildew in grapevines. Inspired by nature, Verpixo® active grows with and a spectrum control of emerging crop diseases, that helps to maximise yield and quality. Registered for use in Strawberry, Cucumber, Peeling and Leafy vegetables, and now Grapes!

To find out more, contact your local Territory Manager on 1800 700 086 or visit corvea.com.au



CORTEVA
Agriculture

© 2020 Corteva Inc. All rights reserved. Verpixo® and Adavelt® are trademarks of Corteva Inc. in the USA and other countries. Visit corvea.com.au

Farmer Johns

53 Railway Terrace
Nuriootpa SA 5355
08 8562 1311

General Manager

Greg Schubert - 0412 739 396
greg@farmerjohns.com.au

Chief Operating Officer

Gavin Keller - 0417 886 038
gavin@farmerjohns.com.au

All Account queries:

Phone 08 8562 1311
Dee Hunter
dee@farmerjohns.com.au

Blyth

22 Harley Street
08 8844 5141
Branch Manager
Adam Conradi - 0432 571 653
adam@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Blyth
salesblyth@farmerjohns.com.au

Murray Bridge

190 Thomas Street
08 8532 5264
Branch Manager
Ashley Clothier - 0488 128 169
ashley@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Murray Bridge
salesmb@farmerjohns.com.au

Nuriootpa

08 8562 1311
Branch Manager
Dave Crockett
davecrockett@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Nuriootpa
sales@farmerjohns.com.au

Ramco

422 Ramco Road
08 8541 4222
Branch Manager
Simeon Craddock - 0408 068 190
simeon@farmerjohns.com.au
General Sales for Ramco
salesramco@farmerjohns.com.au