



# Autumn UPDATE 2006

## Zeroln

### BdMax's Finishing Spray

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### Zeroln

- To maintain dry matter
- Reduce fruit splitting
- Hold fruit size

### ThermoMax

- 98% protection down to -2 C.
- Earlier harvest
- Cost efficient

Now is the time to consider the benefits of using **Zeroln**.

**Zeroln** is used in the last few weeks, prior to harvest, to achieve a variety of outcomes. **Trials to date on kiwifruit have shown that after two applications, there is an increase in dry matter after rain, and an evening out the dry matter levels over the whole sample. This led to a 30% increase in the TZI (Taste Zespri Indicator), and the payout.** Trials are presently underway to establish if this 'evening out' effect occurs without rain.

**Zeroln** achieves its effects naturally through focusing the plants' growth into the roots. This retards sap flow to the top of the plant, reducing water flow during rain events. Positive 'side effects' of this process are

- **To reduce fruit bursting.**
- **Maintains fruit at its existing size.**
- **Brix level rises normally.**
- **Retards plants going to seed.**
- **Encourages root growth.**

(This is enhanced with a further application after harvest)

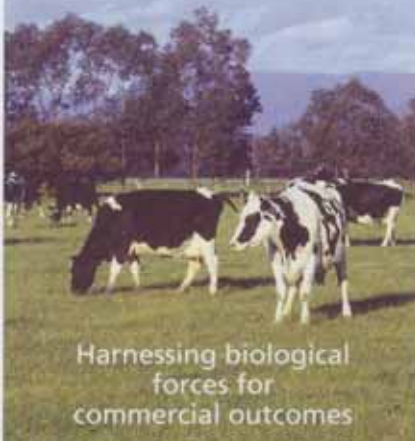
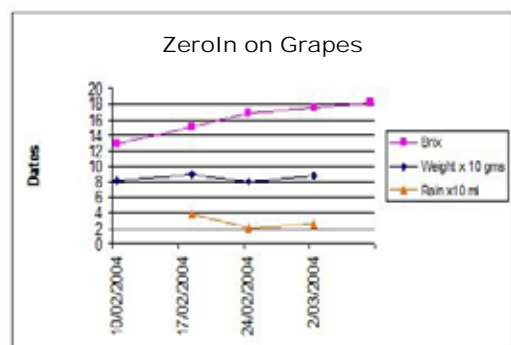
Zeroln has no withholding period, and like all BdMax products is Bio-Gro registered and ACVM exempt.

On ready-to-pick gold kiwifruit, after two applications of Zeroln a week apart, followed by 10 days of rain, dry matter levels were .7% higher in the treated area. The TZI showed a 30% difference.



Trials on ripening grapes in the Hawkes Bay showed that in the last month of growth with two applications of Zeroln a week apart, bunch size remained the same, while the brix level rose normally.

Three rain events occurred during this period. Bunch weight was expected to rise from 80 gms to 140 gms.



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**Zeroln**

**Feedback**

**Human  
Essence**

### Application Rates

#### **For dry matter & rain protection**

250mls per ha for 2 applications 7 days apart, as soon as possible before rain

#### **For autumn root growth**

If used for the above then one more application at 250mls per ha, after harvest

If used just for autumn root growth, 250mls per ha for 2 applications 7 days apart

#### Price

One litre will cover 4 hectares

1 litre costs \$240 /lt = \$60 per app.

5litres costs \$200/lt = \$50 per app.

#### Etherics 1000

Use Etherics 1000 once after the program has finished. It can be included with any other sprays.

## Echinacea Gold

What can you say about Echinacea Gold?

**This is one of the best kept secrets around.**

Echinacea Gold helps build the immune system, increase the lymphatic function while providing anti bacterial and anti viral properties. At the first sign of feeling a bit off colour, reach for the Echinacea Gold. Customers use this product to ward off colds and sore throats. Because it helps build the immune system you are less susceptible to the change of season ailments.

### Astral Coolers

#### **Quieting Chatter**

Living on your nerves?

Emotions running away with your life?

Don't despair, the answer is right here.

**Astral Coolers** is a homeopathic remedy containing Nettle, Yarrow, Chamomile and other common herbs. Astral Coolers has a strong calming affect and literally tames your psychological side. With your emotions under control, enjoy a life that you control not one that always controls you.

## **This Seasons Experiments at the BdMax Orchard**

Now we have a 1 acre block of green kiwifruit, we have been able to carry out more intensive experimental trials, throughout the whole season.

### **ThermoMax**

A spring program was carried on from September till the end of November. No frosts were experienced through this time. It is still too early for other results to be apparent.

### **PhotoMax**

We have two trials running. One area has been sprayed monthly and the other two weekly, since early December. We will be testing for the influence on dry matter and fruit size. Part of this trial was to observe the influence of PhotoMax on bud set during low light. However we did experience good light and heat during December.

### **FruitMax**

We have trials of FruitMax being applied monthly and two weekly from January. This product is for enhancement of fruit size.

### **ThermoMax over FruitMax**

Trials last season showed that where ThermoMax was applied just prior to harvest, over an area sprayed with FruitMax, leaves began an early winter defoliation, which saw the fruit size jump significantly, and the harvest date came forward by a couple of weeks.

We will be redoing this trial this season on and off FruitMax sprayed areas.

### **Zeroln**

We have just started to trial Zeroln's effect on the 'evening out' of dry matter readings. This is a little early for Zeroln on green kiwifruit, however we would like to clarify if it evens out the dry matter readings without rain. We showed last year, that Zeroln had a 30% benefit to the TZI when sprayed before a significant rain event. We are hoping to have these results before the kiwifruit harvest begins.

### **End of Season testing**

The orchard is being divided into 7 maturity areas. We will pack fruit with Seeka, so we should be able to get a good range of quality feedback on these trials.

# Same idea - different outlook?

Back in October last year, my wife Ann spotted an advert in a farming paper "Farmlands" about something called biological controls using homeopathy. I contacted them and this started a great friendship with the team at BdMax, Glen, Caroline and Gillian.

I am the worlds best skeptic and I was quickly pooh poohing this thing called homeopathy but on reflection why would a huge farming organisation be prepared to advertise this tiny firm in Te Puke.

I am a great one for computers and onto the net and BdMax web site. Wow! Over the next week I must have spent many fascinating hours reading their pages and links to other articles.

Gradually I became convinced that I had to be part of this exclusive team.

Contact by phone is not the best way to meet new people so on down to Te Puke from our home in Pokeno and way up No3 Road and a face to face very involved chat, left me still wondering. This ole fella takes a lot of convincing to something so radical as to what I was hearing.

Ann and I spent many hours discussing BdMax and we invited Glen to come and try to convince me.

Those of you who have been fortunate in meeting this dedicated young man will understand how I felt. Very impressed! I am a qualified nurseryman and Ann and I own a small nursery where we grow hoyas, begonias and orchids and we sell to the trade. This entails me loading up our Toyota van and visiting various garden centres and nurseries that buy our plants ex van.

Glen suggested that I sell their products and away I went on my first trip.

Thanks to very descriptive brochures and a folder made by Gillian showing photos before and after of various products. ie. Frosted plants such as newly planted avocados burnt with frost alongside plants that had been sprayed with Thermo Max showing no damage.

I was truly amazed at how interested all staff were to my presentation and the next problem was enticing head offices to accept us and assign what they call Sku #. One staff member actually rang her head office and demanded sku numbers for several of the products namely Possum Chase, Bird Scare and Cat Scat. This was granted and my first order was under my belt.

Hopefully gone are the days when toxic pesticides are the norm and organics will be once again prove to be the right path to follow.

Now that I am finally convinced I foresee a long lasting partnership between BdMax and the Scarrows

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Eion Scarrow  
Experiences

## ETHERICS 1000

Etherics 1000 is important to the continual well being of your plants. A blend of all the Biodynamic preparations 500 – 507 in one safe balanced invigorating spray for plants and soil.

Etherics 1000 is supplied free of charge with most BdMax products, it is to be applied 2-3days before every third spray at the rate of 250ml per hectare.

Etherics 1000

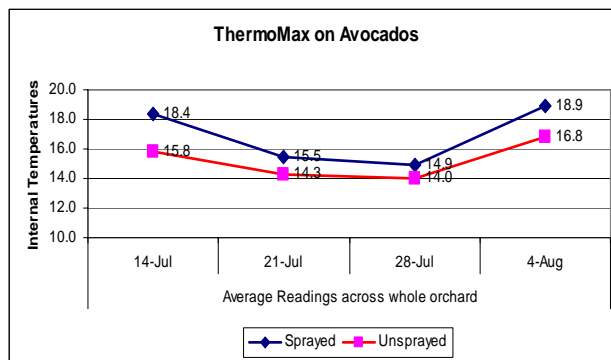
**www.bdmax.co.nz**

# ThermoMax

## An autumnal warmer and frost protection

### ThermoMax

Last winters trials showed ThermoMax successfully increased the internal temperature of Avocados and kiwifruit it will perform the same way for other crops.



With autumn on our doorstep, and cooler weather and possible frosts about to arrive. An application of ThermoMax will give the crop an extra degree of protection, for three weeks or so. You can also expect slightly earlier maturity.

Applications of ThermoMax, the evening before a frost, has worked well in Spring. However with larger canopies on now it would be better to have applications on for a day or so before frosts if possible.

### BirdScare

## Grower Comments

### HB vineyard – Grapes

“A -2°C frost came when we had three inch shoots. The leaves burnt off but the shoots were fine. Regrowth was normal.”

### HB Vineyard – Grapes

“A-2° frost caused some damage but the vines recovered quicker than would be expected normally. We still managed to get a crop off that block for the first time. Previous years have seen the crop lost due to frost.”

### Whangarei - Avocado

“Very satisfied. Trees appeared to have denser flowering and a heavier fruit set than those of a similar age in another block that were not sprayed with ThermoMax.”

### D.Crawford – Avocado

“great results in frost protection trials to -3C. Our fruit set does not seem to be any different than any one else’s. The early fruit set held but the later set dropped off.”



## BirdScare

BirdScare feedback this season has provided anecdotal evidence that spraying BirdScare onto blueberries, while the bees are still working the crop, may reduce the number of bees present. It appears the birds and the bees are indeed very similar creatures.

This phenomena has only been reported on blueberry crops, as pollination takes place while there is ripe fruit to be protected from birds. No such effects have been reported on strawberries using BirdScare.

If you have noticed any unexpected results please let us know.

**Sth Auck. - Strawberries** - Will use again next year. No problems with ongoing fruit set still picking in late February”

## WhiteTail Spider Pepper

Whitetail's! just the word makes you shudder. Whitetail spiders are nocturnal feeders and prefer to live under dry bark and plants (building sites are great for spiders) but will often be seen inside houses looking for shelter from light after hunting at night. The spider often hides in clothing especially if it is left lying around on the floor.

Whitetail spiders feed only on other spiders and prefer the grey house spider, which build their zigzag webs on the outside of houses, fences and car mirrors. Like most insects the whitetail will only bite if handled or provoked. Although describing the spider as "poisonous" is not correct the bite can be painful and turn nasty.

Whitetail pepper is now available in 100ml bottles.

Application is 2ml per litre of water. The spray can be misted both inside and outside of the house on a monthly basis. As the pepper makes the spider infertile the spray will only require reapplication when new spiders enter the area.

## Have you filled in your feedback form?

Next time it is raining and you are looking for an excuse not to do the book work, take a coffee break and fill in the Feed back form. This lets us know how you feel about the products and gives you a chance to ask any questions that only ever pop up just before you spray or when you are out in the middle of the orchard, farm or vineyard. Just tear the feedback form off and post or fax back. Feed back forms can also be filled in on our web site.

## European Developments

Towards the end of March, Glen will be traveling to the Hague in Europe for a month, at the request of sponsors for the trials against the horse chestnut bacterial infection. His time will be spent setting up the trials and systems of spray application to be used for this coming season.

Most of the trees are in urban settings and so the spraying of these very large trees presents some difficulty. The organic status of all the methods we are employing are proving very attractive to all concerned. This season the trials have been enlarged significantly. At the request of the city council the number of trees in the trial has increased from 150 to 800. The trial has also been extended' to include controlling the Mineer Moth, which began attacking the trees, some 15 years ago. Scientists believe this insect infestation has weakened the trees to the point the bacterial infection can take hold. Therefore controlling it has become a priority.

Our experience with peppering insects on kiwifruit, over the last 8 years or so, will hopefully come in very useful with this insect. A positive side of this treatment is that as we must spray the whole tree, the council is funding the required spray equipment.

This 'buy in' by the city council represents a significant development in the acceptability of the project and the methods we are using to achieve our goals.

It is with some degree of humor that we reflect on the difference in the response we are receiving from the Hague City Council, to how we were received, when we offered to help with the control of the Painted Apple Moth in Auckland. No doubt just one of those 'cultural' things.

Glen will be available via email while he is away, so please contact him on [bdmax@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bdmax@xtra.co.nz) if you need his direct assistance. If the office is unable to answer your enquiry, we will forward them to Glen, and as soon as we obtain an answer we will contact you.

**Europe**

**Whitetail  
pepper**

**Feed Back**