



Spring UPDATE 2009

Phone: 0800 735 859
07 573 5859
Fax: 07 573 5839
Email: bdmax@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.bdmax.co.nz

IN THIS ISSUE:

Product information
BirdScare Report
Trial Opportunities
Weather forecast
BdMax Garden Report

**Biodynamic
Products**

Cost Effective

No Stirring Needed

**Easy
Storage
Availability
Application**

EFFECTIVE

Another season is upon us and what a wild ride it has been so far. A long cold winter followed by a cold wet spring, with hot days and cold nights still in November. We doubt this volatility will change any time soon. Peter Bacchus has provided a quick overview of the coming weather, and a few suggestions of how to make the most of it.

We have been very busy this spring with a marked increase in ThermoMax usage, due to the long cold spring. BirdScare usage on the gold kiwifruit has also increased, after Zespri finally relaxed their rules around the use of our products. Thank you to the Organic Kiwifruit growers group, and others, who lobbied on our behalf with this issue. This new 'openness' also removes any restriction around the use of Zeroln in the Autumn, to control water uptake.

We have a new staff member, Peter Clarke, who is helping with the orchard and our research programs. He has worked in various aspects of the kiwifruit industry in New Zealand. Peter has just returned from two years in Europe.

Peter has followed up as many BirdScare users as we could find, and has written a report on his findings. We also have a report from Menzo de Boom, who worked with us for eight months last year. Menzo has a lifetime of experience with Biodynamic agriculture, and he reflects upon his experience here in our gardens and orchard.

We are hoping to carry out more research projects this year, with Peter's help. A large part of this will be working closely with growers. If you are interested in supporting this work, we have a list of projects we are focusing on this year. Also included in this issue are a series of spray programs to help with suggestions for using our products at the appropriate time. And feedback! We rely on your honest feedback of what worked and what did not. So please use the form at the back of this newsletter to let us know your experiences.

Good luck with the coming season and we trust nature will look kindly upon you and your crops.

Christmas is nearly here

We would like to thank all of our customers and friends who have supported us this year and wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Our office will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December to Tuesday 5th January 2010



Harnessing biological forces for commercial outcomes

ThermoMax this season

With the long cold winter, our sales of ThermoMax has increased. Generally the results have been as we would have expected, with good results being experienced to -2C , on all fruit crops.

There has however been a few results reported that we need to pass along.



The early September frost in the Bay of Plenty saw a few gold orchards burnt at around -1.5C . We had one similar report last season. Upon reflection of these events, we wonder what part girdling has to play in this reduced effectiveness of ThermoMax. The orchards where ThermoMax had a reduced effect were double girdled. With the early winter, we wonder how much a reduced carbohydrate relocation to the roots through the autumn, lead to a reduced nutrition to the new shoots the following spring. Especially in the very early growth phase that was threatened by the September frost event.

'Spray on' frost protection rely on the normal amount of solids in the cell, in relationship to the amount of water present, to work. Increase the solids and the amount of available water to freeze is reduced. ThermoMax works in the same manner but through the stimulation of the phosphorus activity of the plant, which in turn should help in the transportation of other elements. However, if those elements are not in the plant, due to reduced CHO relocation in the autumn, then ThermoMax lacks the raw materials to do its job as well as it might.

So we are urging caution on your expectations of ThermoMax in the early part of the season **if you are continuing with the autumn girdling program**. Part of this problem maybe overcome with the addition of liquid fertilisers in the early sprays.

E15 - Mineral Activator Product

Calcium and Phosphorus activator



This is a new product aimed at the very common problem of Phosphorus and Calcium lockup. We have four trials being carried out on pasture and in orchards, with the current feed - back suggesting the results are as we expected. Phosphorus becomes more available first then Calcium follows later.

Etherics 7 - Effluent enhancement



Two local liquid fertiliser makers have confirmed what we found in the UK in dairy effluent ponds. Etherics 7 reduced the solids left over at the end of their process, by around 80%. This suggests better digestion and suspension of the source material, is being achieved. The UK trials also showed increased pasture growth when the effluent was spread.

FG4 – Fungal Reduction



Over the last two seasons FG4 provided very good control of fungal problems on apples, grapes (eating and wine grapes), peaches, tamarillos, potatoes, zucchini and pumpkin. Of particular note was our control on the grapes. Through February and March in the Te Puke area we had temperatures of around 28 deg C , high humidity and at least three rain events of around 280mm (once within 24 hrs.). No disease was seen on both the eating and wine grapes during this period. This product is aimed at the cause of fungal problems as suggested by Dr Steiner and is used throughout the whole season to provide the solution.

BirdScare on Gold Kiwifruit

Peter Clarke

Bird damage is a continual problem in many crops; gold kiwifruit, cherries, grapes, stone fruit, mandarins and blueberries. We have had success with BirdScare as a repellent

BirdScare is made in Te Puke for BdMax from herbal biodynamic preparations of the garden herbs dandelion, oak and nettle. These herbs have gone through a composting process before being rhythmically diluted using homeopathic principles. The resulting liquid is non-toxic, produces no residues, is BioGro registered and environmentally friendly.

Tested by Hort Research in 2003 on wine grapes in the Hawkes Bay "under high bird pressure, multiple applications of BirdScare significantly reduced the proportion of grape bunches having high levels of bird damage. However, the proportion of bunches receiving low damage from the birds increased, and this was likely due to the high bird pressure present." The result still showed an increase in usable yield of 50%.

Gold Kiwifruit

Gold kiwifruit growers are significant users of BirdScare. In early September the growth from winter bud-burst seems to attract birds. The resulting bird damage can significantly reduce yields. In some years growers have lost approximately two-thirds of their crop in vulnerable blocks from bird damage. The new spring bud growth is attractive eating, and may in some years, coincide with a lack of alternative food sources. Bird pressure lasts until the spring growth has hardened off, making it is less palatable to birds, and they go elsewhere.

Various growers have been using BirdScare for up to five years, and we have many positive comments, such as "significantly reduced bird damage", "good control", "excellent - seemed to chase the birds away after application", "will continue to use - happy with results", "obvious control when applied, as birds leave", "birds were nesting in the crop (blueberries), but BirdScare was giving no results until the soil fertility was improved, and then the birds disappeared", "birds were popping in and out of the hedges beforehand, after BirdScare was applied they disappeared".

Growers also report that where bird pressure is high, BirdScare alone is not sufficient, and other control measures may be required as a supplement e.g. A gold grower is near a silage area on one orchard and near a poultry farm on another orchard. He reports having to supplement BirdScare with poisons, balloons, scary tapes, gas guns, shotguns - any method he can.



Observation of birds is advised after heavy continuous rain or watering from frost protection sprinklers as several growers have reported birds returning and a further BirdScare application is sometimes required. As with all products the better the nutrition of the plants the more consistent the results.

Some growers are uncertain as to the effectiveness of BirdScare, and comments such as "used for several years, and not sure whether the product worked".

"There was a lack of bird pressure, but something worked".

"Difficult to know whether to apply BirdScare or not, some years may see minimal bird damage, but we apply it as an insurance as it does seem to have some effect".

"birds seem to be chased away and want to leave the area after spraying"

APPLICATION

The recommended application is

- Apply one spray.
- Seven days later apply a second spray.
- Repeat sprays at 2-3 weekly intervals, as required.

BirdScare is rain fast after drying on the plant (which usually takes around 30 minutes), The recommended rate is 250 mls/ha; a local spray contractor gets consistent results with applying at 500 litres/ha of water. Some growers report using 1000 litres/ha of water, also with satisfactory results

SUMMARY

BirdScare has a proven record of bird control, protecting growers' crops from possible significant economic damage. It works energetically and homeopathically to repel birds; is organically registered and complements a clean, green approach to orchard management.

**BdMax products can be purchased online and delivered by courier
Available through Farmlands, Horticulture or your local agent**

Become involved in our trials

Research occurs at many levels, from our garden through to formal trials. At the 'body of evidence' stage we rely on trials carried out by growers, who have an interest in finding solutions to their problems. "Do any of these issues effect you? If so why not become part of our trial programme".

ThermoMax

Fruit set on Avocados – Investigating to what degree the warming effects of ThermoMax can add in fruit set during cold periods in November.

BirdScare

Bird Control on stone fruit – Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Cherries and Almonds
Control of Pukeko and Wood Pigeon on Tamarillos,

FG4 for Fungal conditions

Our main focus is on Grapes – all diseases, Apples - Black Spot and Powdery Mildew, Cucurbits – Powdery Mildew, Potatoes – Phytophthora Infestans, Kiwifruit – Sclerotinia, Tomatoes – Blight

This is the third year of trials of this formula. Good results have been achieved in the last two and so we wish to get a wider trial reference this season.

Peppering

Passion Vine Hopper on Kiwifruit – We wish to formalise more than 7 years of positive results of this remedy.

Etherics 7

Etherics 7 is designed to enhance effluent digestion as well as reduce smell. We have had very good anecdotal results to date, however we have had difficulty obtaining comparative data. Do you have two effluent ponds, that have similar inputs, yet can be separately treated?

PhotoMax on dairy pasture

PhotoMax has shown benefits in lengthening the growth of pasture in the spring and the autumn. Due to the vast differences of fertility within a dairy pasture we have had difficulty do specific laboratory testing, however the dairy vat and the farmers eyeometer do not lie. Trials can be carried out from April through till September.

Zerolin – Reduce Fruit Splitting

Stone fruit, especially cherries. Trials to date have shown good control, when rain is experienced at harvest up to 1.5.inches. We are particularly interested in trials on cherries however berries and grapes are also prime candidates for this product.

Potato Psyllid

A new bacterial disease is spreading throughout NZ, which is hosted by a psyllid. This has the potential to devastate potatoes, tomatoes, tamarillos and eggplant crops. We have two suggested formulas for this problem, both of which need to be trialled in a variety of circumstances. Home garden crops are at as much risk as commercial crops.

E15

Many growers are finding they are having trouble with lockup of Phosphorus and Calcium both in pastures and orchards. We have developed E15 as a suggestion to remedy this. We have had encouraging initial results and now need to do more on farm and orchard trials to increase our data bank on this product.

New Additions to the Garuda Biodynamics Website

In - Pictures

Biodynamic Thought Puzzles

Biodynamics Decoded

Biodynamic Agriculture

Biodynamic Chemistry

These are A3 sized posters which can be printed out as A4. They are a series of pictures that can lead you through a thought process aimed at broadening your understanding of the particular subject.

In – Online Books

Biodynamic Clarifications

This 'book' is a collection of essays that focus on particular topics that have presented some confusion within Biodynamic Agricultural circles over recent years. There are five essays up at present with more to come.

Find these pages at www.garudbd.org

Dr. Steiner's Agriculture lectures can be found at
<http://www.garudabd.org/node/23/>

The weather forecast for the coming season

Peter Bacchus Soil to Soul

Weather is expected to be moister and cooler this summer, due to the 90 degree square of Saturn to Pluto and Jupiter conjuncting Neptune in December.

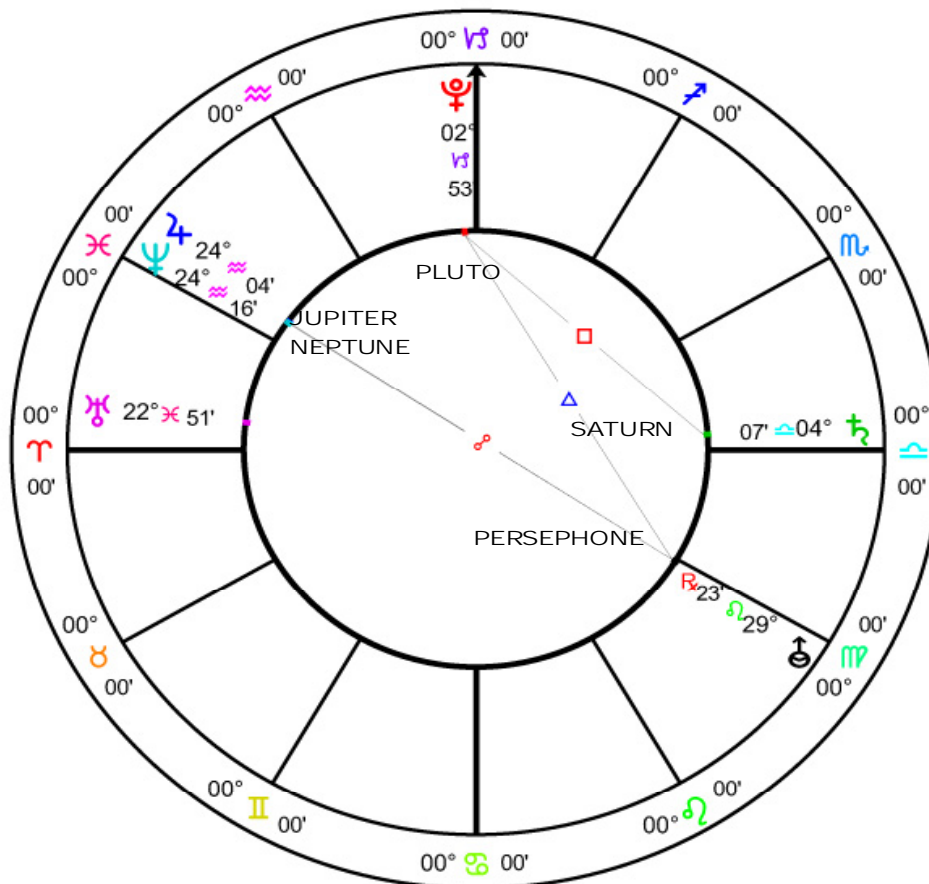
There is a cold period coming up in late November as this mix is activated. This is avocado flowering time, so an extra dose of ThermoMax could help with fruit set during that period.

In January, there is the Jupiter's opposition to Persephone, which may bring snow for some places around the 18th January. The Saturn Pluto Square is long lasting and winter, spring will be bitter, especially in those areas exposed to the south.

This will be a good season to make extra good hay, that is helped by using Etherics 1000 and a good dose of effluent or other fertiliser when closing the paddock, then following up with SilicaMax, sometime between when the crop is half grown and one week before cutting. In the autumn the above procedure should be used again to take more of the quality of the summer sunshine into the winter to improve the fodder quality enabling you to make better use of the grass grown plus getting a better regrowth.

contact for more information or help;
Peter Bacchus
Soil to Soul
30 Bennett Street,
Paeroa, 3600
Ph. (07) 862 7929 or 027 263 2521

PS During cloudy periods, of which there is likely to be a lot till late January, PhotoMax can help maintain photosynthesis at its peak activity.
Glen A.



BIO – DYNAMIC HORTICULTURE AT BdMax

Menzo de Boom MSc.

Introduction

I have had the privilege to work in and care for the gardens and orchards at BdMax for a period of 8 months. From a professional point of view I have been witness to the organic practices and spray programs of BdMax products in place in horticulture at Glen and Caroline's property near Te Puke. In a little over 3 years they have set in place and initiated measures in the gardens and orchards that are now producing positive results.

General Bio-Dynamic management:

Organic and BD management practices are implemented as a matter of course .

These include crop rotations, komposting, using the sowing calendar, companion planting, diversity and carefully considered spray programs.

The permaculture way of thinking is evident in the lay out of vegetable and herb gardens, in the use of a wide variety of crops, flowering plants and the presence of bees.

The vegetable garden:

The garden consists of 5 beds each 30 m. long and 1.5 m. wide. A wide variety of spring and summer vegetables are grown without any trouble and with minimal maintenance during growth. A rain water fed drip irrigation system is in place for the dry periods.

Soil fertility build up: On the radically free draining loose sandy soil of Te Puke, soil fertility and humus content build-up are of great importance.

A komposting system is in place whereby a mix of kompost and worm castings (from the worm farm), are applied in a furrow under the planted or sown vegetables. This band of soil activity and humus content seems to widen each year which is visible e.g. the water holding capacity during a dry summer.

Weeds are often left on the beds after weeding to shelter the soil and as a green manure. They disappear by themselves into the soil. This minimises the spread of one weed (oxalis) or another all over the garden. After a good rain the soil tends to crust up at the top so aeration is necessary and weeding helps with this.

Pest and insect control: The spray programmes in place for boosting up biological activity in the soil also serve as a base for more targeted sprays against fungal or insect attacks. BdMax sprays preventing fungal and insect attacks are used as required. The bird and rabbit scare sprays seem to have been successful in that both are around, but stay well clear of the vegie garden.

These years with weather extremes particularly, one would expect more susceptibility of plants and fruit to all sorts of attacks.

There were no fungal attacks on the grapes or any of the fruit save two spots of black spot on two apples on one tree. There were a lot of white butterflies this year. Interesting though, is the absence of their eggs and grubs on the brassica, so they actually caused no harm here. There were no attacks of any sort on any of the vegetables, even the tomatoes behaved themselves 'till right at their end. All vegies did particularly well, robust, good colour, good sizes or production and no blemishes. The lettuce, carrots, onions, garlic and capsicum should perhaps have a special mention here.

The orchards:

There are two orchards; one acre of kiwi fruit orchard and one strip of mixed fruit trees amongst the tamarillos. Both are used for production and for research so sprays are tested on both, different sprays for different target objectives.

The kiwifruit orchard requires a carefully balanced mineral mix and is also treated to seaweed and kompost tea applications each season.

The mixed orchard gets the same treatment and is blessed with a thick underground cover of clover.

It's quite evident after 3 years of implementing the BdMax Bio-Dynamic scheme and by perfecting it on the plants here, that plant development and resistance to pests and diseases as well as fruit set development and ripening can be very precisely steered to where Glen wants it to be. The fruit size and overall quality, is well up there and this year the fruit was ready for harvest about 4 weeks early.

The passion fruit did very well this year too, with the fruit size well up and an outrageous taste. The feed back we've had on those was most praising.

Remarks:

The enhanced taste factor in the fruit and vegetables here needs a mention. People comment on this constantly and it's true, I feel completely spoiled having enjoyed that high quality of food for these 8 months.

It seems to me that the BdMax system, (of homeopathy in the plant world based on the BD preparations) can be refined even more, the longer the system is in place on the property, with astonishingly direct and very visible results. The difference I see here from other organic methods or with the conventionally known BD system, is precisely that; the astonishingly direct and positive results on the crops.

This is achieved not only by the sprays by themselves, but how they work as part of an integrated system.

Glen's work and research concerning the growth processes in nature shows how a clear understanding of these and their varied layers of interaction, leads to direct measurable results. The plant response is almost instantaneous and visible in time.

Glen gets sprays tested by both research stations (now in Europe as well) and by the numerous growers applying BdMax products on their crops. I gather this all looks very encouraging indeed, and it has been a real pleasure and privilege to have had such a close up look.

I have been in Bio-Dynamics for quite some time both in Europe where I was trained by the likes of Dr. Bockemühl and Prof Köpf and here in NZ.

I did some arable farming in Central Hawkes Bay and have been gardening all my life wherever I go. I have known Glen for a good while (25 years) and worked together on a projects. I have read most of his books and we've had and continue to have the most interesting discussions as we go. I know therefore "where he comes from". I am most intrigued with his quickness and exactitude of thought, his capacity to overlay thought systems and the consistency within his fundamental philosophy. I see Glen as a leader in the field and as an example of how much research is to be done to be able to piece all BD indications by Dr. Steiner together.

I say this as a practical man myself in regards to having seen this in practice. This has been a most inspiring time and I have learned a lot.

Menzo de Boom v.d.Bos

B.Sc. Wholistic natural science Dornach, Switzerland '82

Pricing as of 1 November 2009

All prices are GST Exclusive

For 2009 Season

ThermoMax

100mls	\$ 27.00
500mls	\$ 160.00
1 Litre	\$ 320.00
5 Litre	\$ 1550.00
20 Litre	\$ 5500.00

BirdScore

100mls	\$ 27.00
500mls	\$ 120.00
1 Litre	\$ 240.00
5 Litre	\$ 900.00
20 Litre	\$ 3400.00

PossumChase & RabbitChase

100mls	\$ 27.00
500mls	\$ 120.00
1 litre	\$ 240.00
5 Litre	\$ 900.00

RipeMax, Etherics 5 and FG4

1 litre	\$ 100.00
5 Litre	\$ 450.00
20 Litre	\$ 1600.00

PhotoMax & SilicaMax

100ml	\$ 27.00
1 Litre	\$ 70.00
5 Litre	\$ 300.00
20 Litre	\$ 1000.00

Zeroln

1 litre	\$ 100.00
5 Litre	\$ 450.00
20 Litre	\$ 1600.00

Other BdMax Sprays

Pest protection, FruitBoost

1 Litre	\$ 100.00
5 Litre	\$ 475.00
20 Litre	\$ 1600.00

ThermoSea

5 Litre	\$ 475.00
20 Litre	\$ 1600.00

Etherics 1000 is supplied free of charge with the above products

Etherics 1000 (alone)

500mls	\$ 35.00
1 litre	\$ 70.00
5 Litre	\$ 300.00
20 Litre	\$ 1000.00

Etherics 7

500mls	\$ 75.00
1 litre	\$ 70.00
5 Litre	\$ 320.00
20 Litre	\$ 1000.00

Etherics 9

500mls	\$ 75.00
1 litre	\$ 70.00
5 Litre	\$ 320.00
20 Litre	\$ 1000.00

Etherics 15

500mls	\$ 75.00
1 litre	\$ 80.00
5 Litre	\$ 350.00
20 Litre	\$ 1400.00

Peppering

Single Generic

1 Litre	\$ 70.00
5 Litre	\$ 340.00
20 Litre	\$ 1200.00

Triple Pepper

1 litre	\$ 80.00
5 Litre	\$ 375.00
20 Litre	\$ 1300.00

Etherics 1000 is not supplied free of charge with these sprays

Distributors

North Island

Horticulture Massey	09 832 1400
Horticulture Whangarei	09 438 1045
Farmlands Pukekohe	09 238 8853
Profarm Ruakau	09 236 8228
RD 1 Waiuku	09 236 5088
RD 1 Wellsford	09 423 8837
Farmlands Hamilton	07 847 8057
Farmlands Morrinsville	07 889 8079
Farmlands Opotiki	07 315 3008
Horticulture Tauranga	07 541 0808
Farmlands Tauranga	07 578 4049
Farmlands Whakatane	07 306 0187
Farmlands Rotorua	07 348 9076
Farmlands Te Puke	07 573 7216

PGG Wrightson

Te Puke	07 927 5085
Whakatane	07 308 6343
Gisborne	06 867 9379
AgriPlus Gisborne	06 868 6118
Farmlands Hastings	06 873 8180
Farmlands Napier	06 833 5690
RD 1 New Plymouth	06 759 0490
RD 1 Waitara	06 754 9100
Farmlands Hawera	06 278 9031
Farmlands Levin	06 367 2103
Farmlands Fielding	06 323 0500
Farmlands Waipukurau	06 858 8336
Farmlands Whanganui	06 349 1240

South Island

CRT Amberley	03 314 8340
PGG Wrightson Christchurch	03 528 8154
Sustain-Ability Ltd	03 527 8095
Tasman Crop Protection	
Richmond	03 544 6668
Blenheim	03 572 9107

Garden Centres 100ml packs

Kerikeri Mitre 10	09 407 7420
Seaview Nurseries Manurewa	09 266 5826
Mitre 10 Warkwarth	09 422 3288
Palmers Cambridge	07 827 6244
Rickets Mitre 10 Te Awamutu	07 871 5115
Rotorua Mitre 10	07 348 7143
Aeroview Green World Thames	07 868 7960
Palmers Tauranga	07 578 1080
Palmers Welcome Bay	07 544 1306
The Holistic Animal Centre	07 544 4540
Petal Pushers Papamoa	07 542 2761
Lennards Nursery Papamoa	07 742 1215
Mitre 10 Te Puke	07 573 7095
Pain & Kershaw Martinborough	06 306 5103
Wanganui Garden Centre	06 344 4561
Roselands Pets & Plants	03 578 3591

Prices are subject to change without further notice.