



PEST MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Hello Pesties,

What a summer! So hot and humid which is obviously great for insect breeding and ultimately great for business. The impact of Cyclone Fehi and Gita on New Zealand's climate and landscape has been phenomenal with mass devastation experienced in much of the upper South Island. These natural climatic events bring many challenges, one of these being problem pests that often spike in population growth due to the damage caused to their natural habitat. They then encroach closer to human populations to find food and safe places to live. I know that through talking to many pesties around the country we have seen a spike in Mosquito and Cricket numbers doing exactly that and as a result home owners are feeling like they are plagued by these insects. If you are having problems with Crickets read on as I have some great info to share on how to control them.

Environmental Variables

This year we have had a hotter than normal summer, some of you are experiencing what it is like to have a hot summer with extended periods of high humidity for the first time. As you have probably already figured out from personal experience, consistent high temperatures can effect the results we achieve from insecticide applications - particularly on flies. The flies' metabolism works much faster when it is hot and as a result it often takes longer for flies to die as they process the chemical before it has time to work in their body. If temperatures drop overnight customers will often awaken to a fly grave yard as the active ingredient has done its job in the cooler temperature when they fly is metabolising more slowly. I am often presented with the myth that no matter what you spray you cannot control flies at high temperatures - I believe this to be untrue.

As I have stated on many occasions previously, applying the correct AI (Active Ingredient) rate per 100m² is critical to your success and applying sub-optimal rate will often only show up during periods of high day and night temperatures.

Pesties that apply the correct amount of AI per 100m² do not get many call backs. However they usually also experience relatively little mortality on treated surfaces due to the repellent properties of the chemical, and the treatment will last for many months.

What no mortality you say? What is that about? For many pesties applying sub-optimal rate of AI has meant that the chemical cannot do its job correctly. This is exacerbated by continuous spells of hot weather. If flies are landing in numbers on the treated surface then you have not used the repellent properties of the chemical in the manner that it was designed.

There will always be some fly mortality with a repellent treatment but significantly less than if you use a non-repellent such as Recruit.

A few tips for when you are spraying when it is hot and humid:

- You need to make sure that your chemicals are kept as cool as possible and the water that you use is not hot from straight out of the tap.
- There are many variables when you spray; like the tip that you are using, the speed that you spray and whether your sprayer/mister has been cleaned to ensure that you are getting a clean even spray.
- Use a flat fan tip for ceilings and walls as solid cone nozzles apply chemical unevenly on flat surfaces.
- The biggest problem is that many pesties do not calibrate themselves to the equipment that they use, this is crucial to your success with no call backs. Calibration will determine your water rate for the best coverage. Note: If you are still only using the old dilution rate per 5ltr method then you have been living in the past for a very long time.
- Spray the living areas first then treat the bedrooms before heading back to finish off in the living areas so that you leave the property with nothing in your tank.
- If you calculate the area to be treated and mix enough product to treat this area and still have chemical in your tank when you have finished, then you will never know how much active ingredient you have applied per 100m².

Note - customers that have air conditioning in their homes often experience better knockdown in the summer months due to keeping their homes cooler during high temperatures thus slowing the flies' metabolism and having a better result.

If you think that you may require some help please get in touch as I am more than happy to help.

Biff Ant Courses & Training

Are there any pesties out there who are struggling with ants? We have the answer for you! Get in touch with us as we are setting our 2018 dates for the Biff Ant Course, so be in quick so that you don't miss out. Key Industries have a trusted 6 step method that will enable you to get control of ants for up to 12 months. The only one of its kind in the world designed and Tested & Proven in NZ and made in New Zealand also.

As far as ongoing training goes, some people think that because the Approved Handlers Certificate is no longer needed there is now no need for ongoing training. It is important to remember that the AH is still valid until 2019. The introduction of new Worksafe legislation requires the individual owner or senior managers of larger companies (the PCBU) to maintain ongoing training/professional development for all staff. It is also important to check your insurance policy as many insurance companies require their customers to maintain a certain level of professional development. Aside from attending training such as PestNetwork and our Roctober Pestacular Roadshow, when we reach the final date in 2019, the easiest way to demonstrate professionalism and be compliant is to have completed your Level 3 Certificate for a total cost of \$3000, I believe this is real value for money.

PestNetwork dates

With the 2018 round of PestNetwork kicking off in just over 2 months it is ideal to get this awesome event locked in your diary now to ensure you don't miss out.

This year we have a range of exciting subjects to be covered along with a couple of guest speakers I am sure you will get lots from.

- Auckland 1 - 15th May 2018
- Wellington - 17th May 2018
- Christchurch - 30th May 2018
- Queenstown - 1st June 2018
- Rotorua - 20th June 2018
- Auckland 2 - 22nd June 2018

Jump online to our newly updated PestNetwork website to view the 2018 schedule and find out more about PestNetwork <https://www.pestnetwork.co.nz/>

Welcome Sharon Bracey

There has been a shuffle around in the Key Industries team in Head Office with the appointment of Sharon Bracey into the role of Procurement Manager. Sharon is taking over from Karen's role and Karen will be out on the road helping me look after our pestie customers more regularly.

Sharon comes from a procurement background with several large New Zealand Companies including Nufarm and has been involved in Quality Assurance processes as well. We welcome her to the Key Industries team and look forward to introducing her to you some time soon.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

In the last month MPI has stopped four vehicle carrying boats from docking in Auckland as the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) has been detected on these vessels, this has resulted in boats having to leave New Zealand waters for fumigation and retesting to ensure that none of these invasive insects arrive on New Zealand soil. The introduction of the Marmorated Stink Bug would be a major threat to our crops and infest New Zealand homes as it has done in many countries offshore.

This pest has made it to Perth Western Australia also in the USA so if you have any Import Companies as a client then be aware of this pest. If you think that you have seen this bug please obtain a sample so that it can be identified correctly to keep New Zealand safe.

A pest so threatening to horticulture that it has sparked overhauls in shipping protocols into Australia and New Zealand.

For more info visit:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/10784-brown-marmorated-stink-bug-fact-sheet>

Wanaka A&P Show 2018

For those of you that do business or have interest in the rural sector we have been promoting our Pindone Rabbit and Pindone Possum & Rat at A&P Shows in the South Island for a few years and last weekend Peter & Adeline were at the Roxburgh A&P show where they were showcasing Pindone Rabbit, as these pesky buggers pose huge issues for local farmers and cost millions to the region every year.

Pindone Rabbit is a product that a lot of people do not understand. It is a 1st generation bait which requires multiple feeds for the product to take effect. It is very palatable to rabbits and results in massive population knockdown. Many rural pest managers use our Pindone application program.

Control of rabbits, like most pest problems, requires the right tools in the tool box to get the job done correctly.

In the first week of March I will be in Fiji so please be patient and I will get back to you once I have Wi-Fi and internet - it is a bit slow as it is Fiji time.

Until next time I will see you
Be safe out there.

Vinaka vaka levu Cam

