

Horticulture Happenings

2025 Olives NZ Awards



The 2025 New Zealand Olive Oil Awards held Saturday 11th October at Cophthorne Solway Park in Masterton brought growers, producers, and industry sponsors from across the country together to celebrate excellence in the industry. The annual celebration, hosted by Olives New Zealand, recognised outstanding achievements in extra virgin olive oil production and design, showcasing the depth of talent and expertise within the sector.

Congratulations to Looline Olives, winner of Best in Show and River Grove Ltd, winner of Best in Boutique.

This year's competition saw 120 entries across Boutique, Commercial, and Flavoured oil categories, reflecting the diversity of regional terroirs and tree varieties and depth of New Zealand's olive oil industry.

For a full list of the award winners check out the NZ Olives [website](#).

The awards evening capped off a weekend of workshops over the course of the two day event. The workshops covered topics including grove management with a focus on grafting and pruning practices as well as organic and regenerative growing practices. Horticulture's Chris Herries was on hand to not only to award the major prize at the awards evening on behalf of the Horticulture Trust, but also to field any technical questions during the workshops held at River Grove and Bella Olea.

The Horticulture Trust is proud to be the Principal sponsor of Olives NZ.



The winner of the Best in Show award was Looline Olives with their Picual variety. Pictured is Horticulture's Chris Herries presenting the top award on the evening to Looline owner, Stephen Davies Howard.

Growing Better Crops Together

Horticulture Trust supports Medicinal Cannabis Industry Day



**New Zealand
Medicinal Cannabis Council**
Te Kaunihera Rautini
o Aotearoa


Held at Employers and Manufacturers Association Building in Khyber Pass Auckland on 29 October, this was the first [New Zealand Medicinal Cannabis Council](#) Industry Day with an expanded community (recently approved so that New Zealand maintains a strong collective voice on all

matters medicinal cannabis in New Zealand). A wide range of topics was covered, including :

- CEO Roundtable: The state of Medicinal Cannabis in New Zealand now
- Inside the Regulatory Framework: Perspectives on roles, responsibilities and compliance.
- Greenlab an SFFF research funded Growers Manual intended to support consistency and quality across the industry.
- Bluelab - Research and new knowledge in light spectrum for cultivation
- Plant and Food on crops for 30 years into the future e.g. growing in low light, flowers without leaves, etc
- Electricity - how to reduce or move completely to solar - challenges and opportunities
- Export 101 Building an Export-Ready Business. Terry Teoh on what NZTE can bring and crafting authentic brand stories to unlock global markets.

NZMCC's Industry Day brought together participants from across the medicinal cannabis ecosystem, including policy makers, academics, cultivators and industry participants to share knowledge, exchange ideas and build a collaborative engaged community

Horticulture Trust supports Berryworld Research

 **Berryworld** [Berryworld Ltd](#), with sponsorship from the Trust, has launched a research project to help New Zealand strawberry growers **NZ. EST. 2012** understand and reduce the impact of summer heat on fruit quality.

Rising temperatures are limiting berry size, and this study will compare indoor and outdoor temperature and humidity data from grower and trial sites to identify how effectively tunnels are vented, the potential for evaporative cooling, and optimal shading strategies. Participating growers will monitor tunnel conditions and fruit size throughout the season, with Berryworld analysing the data to develop practical, site-specific heat mitigation options. The project aims to equip growers with tools and knowledge to maintain cooler tunnel environments, improving berry size and overall fruit quality—benefiting both participating farms and the wider Strawberry Growers NZ community through shared insights and recommendations

Horticulture Trust supports Feijoa Conference



The Horticulture Trust is again supporting the annual [New Zealand Feijoa Growers Association](#) AGM held on 6 November in Tauranga. The programme includes the AGM and guest speakers including well known feijoa expert, Dr Grant Thorp, and Kate Evan, author of The Feijoa Book. Attendees can join a bus tour to Trevelyan's Packhouse and Coolstore for insights into sustainable orchard management,

followed by a hands-on soil testing workshop on a feijoa orchard with Agritechnovation, focusing on soil health, nutrition, and management innovations.

FAR Research Spring Walk Manawatū: Report by Shelley Bath



I attended the [FAR](#) event, held on the 21st October in the Manawatū region. It was great to see several Horticulture suppliers make the trip to support local farmers.

Jo Drummond (FAR) led the on-farm discussion at James Abbiss' property in Cheltenham. The discussion focused on cereal crops, disease identification and management. Jo went over examples from the N Supply calculator which calculated Mineralised N and Potentially Mineralisable N results in spring barley examples.

James' property is a 40% cropping / 60% livestock split. They grow a variety of arable, fresh peas, and maize crops in their cropping system. We were able to have a look at a paddock of Cochise wheat, followed by a look at a newer variety of winter feed wheat called Skybolt. Skybolt is a promising variety bred for yield and disease resistance and James' has grazed stock on it this winter with good results. The re-growth after grazing looked very good.

Sally Linton (Velvetleaf Coordinator North Island) gave a brief presentation on the identification and control of Velvetleaf particularly in maize, fodderbeet and radish crops. She then discussed weed biosecurity using detector dogs. There is currently only one dog in New Zealand (South Island based), who is trained to detect Velvetleaf. Three times a year, handler and dog come up to the North Island to search and identify areas with Velvetleaf onsite. It is important to be aware of this weed and be actively looking for and controlling it, as the ramifications for your ability to sell crops is greatly restricted unless it is proven to be clean of Velvetleaf.



Paddock of Skybolt at James Abbiss' property.



Velvetleaf Identification

Out and about around the Regions

The group then travelled to Waitatapia Station where Hew Dalrymple fielded questions on their new AgriFac Condor sprayer. The AgriFac machine has a 36 metre boom, 144 nozzles, and a spray tank that is filled via two pumps which has reduced the time it takes for Matt to fill the tank to 7 minutes. The sensors attached to the StrictHeightPlus booms ensures that the spray is delivered at a set height from the ground. The purchase has been a significant investment for Waitatapia Station. It was impressive to see the sprayer in action and even in very trying conditions, the level of drift from the water spray appeared minimal.



AgFac Sprayer



Hew Dalrymple (Waitatapia Station) discussing the new

Horticulture Gisborne supports Trust Tairāwhiti Growers Association Innovation Breakfast

The Horticulture Gisborne crew fired up the BBQ and cooked a hearty breakfast for everyone at the recent Tairāwhiti Growers Association (TGA) Innovation Breakfast. It was a great way to kick off a morning full of fresh ideas for the region's booming horticulture industry.

With horticulture being the largest and fastest growing industry in Tairāwhiti-Gisborne.

The event focused on ways to:

- Improve efficiency and cut costs
- Keep up with the latest technology
- Build valuable industry connections
- Find new opportunities for collaboration

Some of the highlights included presentations and discussions on precision agriculture, smart

irrigation and water management, energy and infrastructure and training and development, with Horticulture showing our range of horticultural supply solutions.



BBQ experts Gareth and Bruce in action at the Trust Tairāwhiti Growers Association Innovation Breakfast

ELECTRIC RESPIRATOR WITH HELMET K80S T8

Code Kasco k80st-L8

Recommended for treatments with **pesticides** in open fields and greenhouses, during the handling and treatment of grain, in the cleaning and disinfestation of stables and chicken coops and during any work where it is necessary to effectively protect the respiratory system.

Designed with a double filter, it is the ideal device for those who want to protect themselves not only from dust, liquid and solid aerosols but also organic vapors.

The respirator is ideal for those who want complete protection and intend to work autonomously for extended periods.

The helmet has one of the lowest noise levels on the market.

Recommended for treatments with pesticides in open fields and greenhouses, during the handling and treatment of grain, in the cleaning and disinfestation of stables and chicken coops and during any work where it is necessary to effectively protect the respiratory system.

The K80S series respirators work by means of a slight overpressure created by a flow of filtered air. The air, sucked and purified through the filters by means of a control unit, is sent through the tube inside the helmet. The control unit, filters and battery are carried on the belt.



ADVANTAGES AND FEATURES

PROTECTION : The electro-respirator with helmet is the only assisted ventilation device capable of protecting the head, face, eyes, ears and respiratory tract from dust and gas. The aspirated and filtered air is introduced into the helmet via a control unit and connection tube, creating a slight overpressure. The continuous air flow prevents the visor from fogging and eliminates any breathing effort, offering protection and comfort to the operator.

COMFORT : Even for the less experienced user, the device allows easy and immediate use. Its lightness and simplicity allow high comfort during work operations.

DURATION : The various components made from excellent and carefully selected raw materials guarantee an average lifespan of the device of over ten years.

FLOW INDICATOR : The always visible ball flow indicator allows you to monitor the functioning of the respirator.

LITHIUM BATTERY : The waist-mounted or integrated lithium battery is the latest generation, lightweight and easy to store.

HELMET : The adjustable internal harness from 53 to 63 cm blocks the helmet to the forehead giving greater visibility to the operator. The white color is ideal for repelling ultraviolet rays.

For more information see [TECHNICAL FEATURES](#)

COMPACT ELECTRIC BREATHER PROF88-LI ZA2P3

Code Kasco prof88

Recommended for treatments with pesticides in open fields and greenhouses, during the handling and treatment of grain, in the cleaning and disinfestation of stables and chicken coops and during any work where it is necessary to effectively protect the respiratory system.

Designed with a double filter, it is the ideal device for those who want to protect themselves not only from dust, liquid and solid aerosols but also organic vapors.

The respirator is ideal for those who want complete protection and intend to work autonomously for extended periods.

The helmet has one of the lowest noise levels on the market.

The Prof88 respirator works by means of a slight overpressure created inside the helmet by a flow of filtered air. The air is sucked in and purified through filters by means of two electric fans powered by the rechargeable battery inserted in the helmet.

The electric respirator consists of:

- a helmet with an opening visor and integrated flow indicator,
- a double integrated control unit,
- an integrated lithium battery,
- a battery charger,
- two A2P3 filters,
- a shoulder support.

FLOW INDICATOR : The always visible ball flow indicator allows you to monitor the functioning of the respirator.

LITHIUM BATTERY : The built-in lithium battery is the latest generation, lightweight and easy to store.

HELMET : The adjustable internal harness from 53 to 63 cm blocks the helmet to the forehead giving greater visibility to the operator. The white color is ideal for repelling ultraviolet rays.

For more information see [TECHNICAL FEATURES](#)



Staff Profile of the Month

Meet the Team: Andrew Goad, Regional Manager—Massey

How long have you been with Horticulture?

I have been with Horticulture for 14 years.

What crops are you passionate about?

I have been involved with greenhouse vegetable production for 40+ years.

What inspired you to join the horticulture industry?

I grew up in horticulture—my father was a greenhouse tomato grower. I actually have an early memory of picking up fertiliser with Dad from beginnings of Horticulture from Max Wordsworth's garage in Te Atatū.

After completing a B.Hort Sc degree at Massey University I went home to the family property, which I purchased soon after. After 12 years, I leased these out and I went to work for NZ Gourmet. Here, I was sent down to help set up and manage Gourmet Mokai, a 10 Ha geothermally heated operation, near Taupo.

After 10 years, I came back to Auckland as house husband for 2 years, which was great until my wife, Jo, decided it was time for me to get a job! Brian told me a job was going at Horticulture and the rest is history.

What do you like most about your work?

I like the fact I can still be in the horticultural industry, and I am helping growers to try and maximise their potential.

What's a common challenge in your role, and how do you handle it?

One of the challenges in my job is supporting many growers who are new to horticulture and sometimes working in a second language. It's also one of the most rewarding parts, I get to help them build confidence and skills by keeping things simple and focusing on the key foundations of hydroponic growing, like good water management. Once that's mastered, they're already 80% of the way there.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I love travel and being out on my boat.

If you weren't in Horticulture, what would you be doing?

I would possibly have been a History/Geography teacher.

What's a fun fact people might not know about you.

I studied Te Reo Māori while in Mokai. I was hopeless but passed, possibly out of pity?

Thanks, Andrew — and good on Jo! She really initiated a long and wonderful career with Horticulture, where many growers have benefited from your expertise. May it continue for many more years to come.



An integral part of the Protected Horticulture team, Andrew provides expert advice to greenhouse growers in the North & West Auckland region.



Andrew on one of his recent travel adventures to the Komodo Islands pictured with a gigantic Komodo Dragon, wow!



Work-time and Log Book requirements for Truck Drivers Reminders

Work time limits reduce driver fatigue and apply to all drivers and operators managing driving hours. They cover vehicles that: need a class 2–5 licence, operate in a transport service, or carry goods for hire or reward.

Drivers of class 1 or 2 vehicles operating within 50 km of their business base or depot are exempt from logbooks, but must still follow work time rules.

Work time

Work time includes all driving and non-driving duties.

Drivers must take a 30-minute break after 5½ hours of work.

A cumulative work day lasts up to 24 hours, starting after at least 10 hours of rest.

Within a work day, you can work no more than 13 hours, with required breaks.

After 70 hours of total work, you must take a continuous 24-hour break.

Logbooks

Logbooks record all work and rest times to show compliance with work-time rules.

Only one approved logbook may be used at a time.

Drivers must show their logbook to enforcement officers on request, who may remove copies for inspection.

Completed logbooks must be kept for 12 months after the last entry.

More information [here](#). This must always be strictly adhered to.

Signing off: It's a full-on time of year, and we know how much effort everyone's putting in to keep things running smoothly out in the field and behind the scenes. Your hard work, teamwork, and commitment make a real difference. Thank you for everything you're doing to keep the season on track for our growers!



Growing Better Crops Together

Horticulture TasmanCrop

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