

Sorry about the weather...

By Paul Martin, Director, Rainbow & Brown

Endless rain, disastrous floods, freezing blizzards with snow to sea level, land slips, avalanches, road closures; it's been about as bad as it can get lately. And I think we are owed an apology. The Prime Minister and her government have regularly felt obliged to formally apologise for things they had no control over. There was the apology to the Samoans for their colonialist exploitation. Then there was the apology for the systematic maltreatment of 19th century Chinese immigrants. And don't forget the apology for the Crown's disgracefully rough handling of gays and lesbians (some of whom will have liked it, but that's not the point). And most recently the apology for appalling treatment of Maori, although that apology does have some merit; the current government has many times forced Maori cultural groups to huddle on freezing airport runways with no more protection than a grass skirt, awaiting the arrival of some foreign nabob or another. That is indeed abuse, it must be admitted, but it's really no worse than the torture such groups inflict on the poor bugger as soon as he steps off the plane.

One apology that's been inexcusably overlooked, in my view, is to the descendants of the Scottish and Irish so cynically used against their will by the Crown to cheaply establish European settlement of New Zealand. My own Scottish forebears arrived in the Antipodes in chains (a fact that many readers may have already suspected). So where is our apology? The Prime Minister should not forget that we tens of thousands of disenfranchised Jocks and Micks know where all the polling booths are. And all the bars, of course.

I suspect that there will be no apology either, if the Prime Minister goes ahead with her current plan to force rural landowners to grant free access for what she calls our "increasingly urban society" to all waterways via rural land. Given the state of the rural environment lately, she'd be doing them a big favour if she encouraged her fellow urban adventurers to experience the great outdoors somewhere closer to home. Her own backyard, for example.

Anyway, let's get back to the weather. It's bloody awful. Relentless, inconvenient, uncomfortable, and in many cases financially and emotionally devastating. So I reckon we are all owed an apology. Just something simple, like "Sorry about the weather".



IN THIS ISSUE:

NEW!

Spray Marker Dye

now available.

NEW!

500g size MSF600

Gorse & Brushweed Spray

now available.

***PRICES for
Spring 2004***

***Product
Information:***

Glyphosate, MSF600 & Wetters.

Back Page:

Scandal, Rumour,
Sports & Weather.

NEW PRICES

Effective from 1st September 2004

Following our winter sale, we have reviewed all of our current prices. Here's the situation, including some comments to help you work out what might happen in the future. If you do figure it out, please let us know.

MSF600. The 200g base price has risen slightly since the winter sale, but it's still lower than last spring's prices. However, the introduction of the new 500g size will allow us to continue to offer very good bulk discount prices. MSF600 prices should now hold until at least Christmas.

Glyphosate. We are presently able to hold our winter sale prices for 20L and 200L sizes, although freight costs have forced the 5L and 10L prices back to pre-sale levels. These prices will have to be reviewed again from about early October, because the cost and availability of glyphosate raw materials is currently uncertain.

Wetters. SprayWetter pricing can be kept at winter sale levels for the moment, but SuperWetter has gone back to the pre-sale mark. Both these products are very dependent on oil commodity pricing, so we're in the hands of Osama bin Lunatic or whoever it is who sets oil prices. We'll look again in October.

Spray Marker Dye

This is a red marker dye designed for adding direct to the spray tank or knapsack when spot spraying. It allows you to see which weeds you've sprayed, and which ones you haven't. So it helps you to avoid missing weeds, as well as preventing wasteful double spraying. The marker dye is temporary, with the visible colour lasting just a few hours on the plant.

This product is not flammable or hazardous, and comes as a liquid concentrate, so it's easy to mix into the tank. Use 100ml per 100 litres of spray as a rule (you can use a bit more or less, depending on how intense the colour looks on the particular species you're spraying). As a rule of thumb, each litre of this product will dye about 1000 litres of spray.

Prices incl GST & delivery, are:

2L pack ... \$65 5L pack ... \$150



Order of Addition to Spray Tank

We recommend the following order of addition to your spray tank: half the water, marker dye, herbicide(s), remainder of the water, and finally the wetter/penetrant. That order provides the best mixing and the least foaming.

Compare Prices

Our prices always *include* both GST and delivery. Some other suppliers quote *excluding* GST, so when you are comparing prices make sure it's apples with apples.

MSF600 Gorse & Brushweed Spray

Now available in New 500g size

This product contains 600g/kg metsulfuron-methyl, the most popular and cost-effective herbicide for brushweeds, especially gorse.

And our new 500g pack size allows us to offer even greater savings on larger quantities, as well as increased convenience in handling and storage.

MSF600 is safe to use (it's non-toxic to humans and all animals), and easy to measure and dispense. It's a non-dusty granular material and is readily water-soluble.

It doesn't "poison" the plant, it works by preventing the plant from producing an enzyme necessary to support new growth. That's why it takes a few weeks to work – for a while the plant can handle not being able to produce new growth, but after about 4 – 10 weeks (depending on species and growing conditions), the plant gives in to the inevitable and begins to die. The process quickly results in the plant becoming totally brown and desiccated, and it dies. It can then be burnt, crushed or left to disintegrate on its own.

Here are rates for just a few of the many species controlled by MSF600:

- Gorse: 20g per 100L spray, or 500g per hectare
- Blackberry: 35g per 100L spray, or 300g per hectare
- Bracken: 35g per 100L spray, or 170g per hectare
- Manuka: 30g per 100L spray, or 300g per hectare
- Matagouri: 25g per 100L spray, or 170g per hectare



Prices for MSF600, including GST and delivery, are:

- 200g pack\$90**
- 500g pack.....\$195**
- 1kg \$350**
- 2kg\$660**
- 4kg..... \$1200**

Glyphosate

The world's most popular herbicide. Safe to use, fast-acting, non-toxic, and economical. No residual effect in the soil. Only two days withholding period for grazing and for drilling new seed. Contains 360g/litre active glyphosate. Use at 1L per 100L for general spraying, and at 3 – 5L per hectare for most pasture renewal situations.



Prices including GST and delivery are:

- 5L..... \$60**
- 10L..... \$90**
- 20L (buy 1–3) \$145 ea.**
- 20L (buy 4–9) \$135 ea.**
- 20L (buy 10+)..... \$130 ea.**
- 200L \$1180**

SuperWetter

Organosilicone wetter, essential when spraying gorse and some other brushweeds with MSF600 or glyphosate. Boosts penetration, improves uptake, and reduces rain risk period. Used at 100ml per 100L for groundspraying, and between 500ml and 2L per hectare aerial spraying.



2L...\$60 5L...\$135

SprayWetter

General purpose wetter for pasture spraying and general weed spraying. Aids uptake, improves herbicide performance against hard-to kill species, and reduces rain risk. Also very effective when spraying dusty or stressed plants. Used at 50ml per 100L for groundspraying.



5L ... \$55

The Back Page

• Ordering

You can order anytime by phone, fax, e-mail or letter. If you call us on the freephone number, you may at times get an answering machine. We will not employ someone just to answer the phone, and sometimes we'll be doing something else. Plus we've only got two phone lines, and sometimes they're both in use. So don't be alarmed, just leave your name and number, and we'll soon call you back. Or if we've already got all your details, just leave your order (with your name and phone number) on the machine.

• Delivery

We send your order within 24 hours. Delivery will usually take between 1 and 4 days. If it hasn't arrived after that time, call us so we can track it down for you. Delivery of orders of 60 litres or less will be to your door, including rural delivery addresses. However, delivery of larger orders will be to the nearby depot or drop-off point we will arrange with you when you place your order.

• Payment

We send your invoice by mail, the same day we send your order, so you'll know when it was shipped. Payment is due on 20th following month, and you can send a cheque or use direct payment to a/c No: 123155-0066374-00. The bank account number is also on both your invoice and your statement. We send statements out in the first week of each month.

• Referrals

If you recommend our products to a friend or neighbour, and they mention you when they first order from us, we will apply a \$10 discount to your next order for \$150 or more. Word-of-mouth recommendation is the best form of advertising, and we want to show our appreciation of your faith in us.

• Sports

What do we do about those All Blacks? Well, we have put a lot of thought into it, analysed a pile of video tapes, and studied a mass of match statistics. And here's what we came up with... absolutely nothing, actually. And by remarkable coincidence, that's also what they have come up with as well.

In other Sports news:

- As we predicted in our last newsletter, Lance Armstrong won his sixth successive Tour de France. Making him the greatest athlete of all time, in our humble but always correct opinion.
- As we go to press, the Olympics are still on, and Ian Thorpe is doing it again. Here's some information not so easy to pick up off the TV coverage: Thorpe is 6'5" tall, weighs 104kgs, has size 17 feet and he's only 21 years old. So he could be the ideal answer for the All Blacks. Plus he's already got the black bodysuit.



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