



**Hazelnut Growers of Australia Ltd.**  
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December 2003

## Hazelnut Newsletter Number 7 – December 2003

### Recent Activities



The AGM and seminar was held over the weekend 1-2 November 2003 with an attendance of 25 plus members.

The AGM resulted in the election of Stewart Deans to the position of Vice President, Tom McInnes as Treasurer/Secretary and Lyn McRae was elected Sub-Editor. As President and on behalf of all members, it is greatly appreciated that these members took up these important positions to ensure that continuity is maintained and the HGA can continue to grow.

The Board would like to thank the retiring long term serving President/Vice President Rex Bean and Treasurer/Secretary Alan Bates for their work over many years with the HGA.

The seminar on Saturday and Sunday morning provided some interesting comments and input for the HGA members. Basil Baldwin presented an update on his trial plot research results, which continues to point the way forward for growers.

Yield data suggests the main planting varieties for a future Australian commercial hazelnut industry appear to be Barcelona, Ennis, Tonda di Giffoni and Tokolyi/Brownfield Cosford (TBC) as the leaders. TBC needs further research on pollinators. We look forward with interest to further results from the trial plots.

### Grower/Member Survey

The results of this survey were presented at the AGM and provided some interesting insights to tree locations and varieties. The results reflect trial plot research with 32% of planting the Barcelona variety, 23% Ennis and 18% TBC.

It is intended to repeat the exercise next year and from this to develop a database of the development of the industry. Your assistance in providing this information is greatly appreciated.

### Board Activities



Prior to the AGM meeting, the Board meet with Max Bourke of RIDIC who had carried out an independent study of Basil Baldwin's research relating to the trial plots as part of a funding review. RIDIC advised the Board that the

research being conducted by Basil and his team was of a high standard and met all the requirements that RIDIC expected from such research.



### From the Laptop

My thanks to all of those who have raised issues via e-mail and I hope most of these have been addressed. As President, one receives some very diverse and interesting e-mail, for example please see two received last week as follows:

*hi...i was wondering if you might be able to help me with some info on eating raw hazelnuts. i find that they give me a lot of gas and the like and was wondering if there is any particular way of preparing them. i have tried soaking them in water for a few days but this does not seem to help much. should i maybe ferment them to break down the fibre? if so how long for etc. or is there a way you know of??*

*i do not wish to roast them if possible!!  
thanks. phil.*

*Dear Mr. Wheelright,*

*I am the General Manager of FirmYield Pollen International, a commercial orchard company based in Oregon in the United States.*

*We are interested in becoming involved in the hazelnut industry. Do you know if there are presently any commercial pollen companies that are presently collecting hazelnut pollen in Australia?*

*We use the pollen to supplement the pollen that is generated by pollinators within the orchard. This helps increase the yield in orchards that are either deficient in pollen production, or that have a coordination problem between the pollinators and the producing trees. This practice is common*

*with almonds, as well as fruits such as apples, pears, cherries, and plums.*

I have not been able to answer the first e-mail, but discussing issues with the second. Rex Bean sent us the attached e-mail for inclusion in the Newsletter, which may be useful for members:

Subject: Fieldcraft Grafting Tools

> I have been provided a copy of an old Hazelnut newsletter from > September

2002 concerning grafting tools. I understand that you may have been trying to locate grafting tools manufactured by Raggett industries Ltd with little success.

>

> I would like to draw your attention to our web site [www.raggettindustries.com](http://www.raggettindustries.com) with this you will find information concerning the Fieldcraft range of grafting tools and a list of Distributors in your area.

>

> Should you require further information concerning the grafting tools please do not hesitate to contact me again.

>

> I look forward to your reply.

>

>

> Best Regards

> David Raggett

> Marketing Manager

> Raggett Industries Ltd

> E-Mail:

[raggett.industries@extra.co.nz](mailto:raggett.industries@extra.co.nz)

> Web Site:

[www.raggettindustries.com](http://www.raggettindustries.com)

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## The Harvest



As the harvest this year approaches, a timely article for getting the pH right and processing your nuts has been passed on by Jim Gault, as follows:

"I write to suggest correction of a couple of errors in the HGA handbook. As a member of only a couple of years standing, I guess I have been reading it more closely than some and whilst not in any way putting myself

forward as an expert (which I am not) at least I can pick up some of the bits you guys might miss. The parts I believe warrant correction relate to pH requirements and calculations of Moisture content.

A. Section 2 (fourth para) notes that a pH of about 6.0 is considered ideal. From all my own research, this seems entirely correct. However, at Section 5 (fifth para) it states "...Hazelnuts prefer a neutral or slightly alkaline pH.." and that "...application of lime is recommended on soils below pH 7.0". I believe this latter paragraph entirely inaccurate and misleading with potentially serious consequences to new growers. I would be happy to draft a replacement paragraph, but it might best be simply amended by replacing "alkaline" with "acidic" in the first line and replacing "below pH 7.0" with "below pH 6.0" at the third line.

B. Appendix A ('How to dry your nuts'). I wish to take nothing away from the practical experience and effort that went into making that Appendix. The HGA does need to be absolutely professional in presentation, though, if we are to be a credible authoritative body. The main faults are:

1. Measurements need to be taken by weight not number as there are significant variables in the latter.

2. The percentage moisture content of any commodity is NOT the ratio of moisture to dry weight. It is the ratio of moisture to total weight [of the nut(s)].

3. The 'equations' provided are tortuous although oddly enough the final equation at foot of 'Recording Proforma' gets the right practical answer!

Since I wish to be entirely constructive, I have re-written Appendix A as I believe it should be. Please find that draft attached. The Recording Proforma could stand virtually 'as is' although with the equation (in bold) "Moisture Content (MC) =" etc deleted. The final equation (5%MC = Dry Weight +5/100 Dry Weight) is, for all practical purposes, accurate and should stand.

## Calculating Moisture Content – Proposed Revision to HGA Handbook – for general comment by members.

1. Take a 400g sample of nuts and divide into two equal lots of exactly 200g each. Label the two lots **Sample A** and **Sample B**.

2. Place **Sample B** in a net bag and place back with the nuts to be dried.

3. Crack all the nuts in **Sample A**, keeping all of the kernel and broken shell together. Record the number of blanks and shrivelled, mouldy or stained kernel.

4. Place **Sample A** (nuts and shell combined) in a microwave. Heat for one minute on high setting and re-weigh. Continue this process, which may take 10-15 repeats, until the weight of the sample does not change. This is known as the **Dry Weight** (ie no moisture).

5. The moisture content (MC) of the sample in grams can thus be calculated by simple subtraction: (ie original weight [200g] minus dry weight). Moisture content is usually expressed as a percentage. The percentage moisture content of the sample is thus:

$$\frac{\text{Moisture Content in grams}}{\text{Original sample weight in grams}} \times 100$$

**Example:**

If Dry weight was 160g, then MC was 40g & as a percentage  $\frac{40 \times 100}{200} = 20\%$

6. Although different markets may have different MC requirements, the normal target is to achieve an MC of 5% or less.

7. To calculate the weight when **Sample B** will be at 5% MC, simply **add 5% to the Dry Weight of Sample A**. [As percentage moisture content is actually the moisture content compared with the total nut weight, not just the dry weight, this technically will give a moisture content of 4.76% but this is sufficiently accurate for most practical purposes]. This is the **Target Weight**.

**Example:** If Dry weight was 160g, then Target Weight for 5% MC is  $160 + 5\% = 168\text{g}$ .

8. The Target Weight is the weight at which **Sample B** should be when it, and therefore (given equal drying conditions) all the other nuts being dried, will be at 5% MC.

9. Throughout the measuring, drying,

storing and distribution processes, always bear in mind that dried nuts will tend to re-absorb moisture in anything other than dry, temperature stable conditions.

**Registered Chemicals for Use on Hazelnuts**

Unfortunately, Crop Protection Services which is the company doing HGA chemical permit renewals has closed its doors due to lack of funds. The Board will pursue this matter with another company to undertake registrations.



Again, it is recommended that all members undertake a Chemical Users course and correctly store, measure and apply all chemicals in their orchards. A new regulation in NSW, the Pesticides Amendment (User Training) Regulation 2003 was recently gazetted and commenced operation on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003.

Details of the new regulation can be obtained from the NSW EPA phone 02- 9995 5000 and information on recognised training courses can be found at EPA's website at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/trainers.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/trainers.htm).

In Victoria, any farmer using Schedule 7 poisons (S7-Dangerous Poison) such as Sprayseed is required to obtain an Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) from the Department of Primary Industries.

**Coming Events**



Your committee is trying to organise Field days for 2004 and any suggestions would be greatly appreciated on locations and farms to visit. More details

will be advised when dates and locations are finalised.

**Conclusion**

This newsletter is intended to provide a means of communication between the Board and the HGA members. Comments on the newsletter and articles/information for inclusion are welcomed and should be addressed to The President, Peter Wheelwright, by phone on 0427 982 055, or by email to [pwheelwright@bigpond.com](mailto:pwheelwright@bigpond.com).

