

SEED & FIELD SERVICES LTD

AUTUMN 2018

NEWSLETTER

GRANT WILSON



After being a founding member of Seed and Field Services Ltd over 20 years ago, Grant has decided that in 2018 he will decrease his workload and will be working for two days a week.

He will be available (021 934201) at other times if needed. Kenny, Philip, Johan, Callum and Andrew will be available if urgent requests need to be actioned. We can be found at the mobile numbers listed at the end of this newsletter.

Grant will stay closely involved particularly with the onion and carrot seed side of the business, as he always has.

Grant has decided to spend more time hunting, and doing other things outside of work that he enjoys.

We wish him all the best in the next stage of his working life and acknowledge the absolutely outstanding agronomy and seed related work that he has been doing for us for many years.

Terranova Summer Lettuce Field Day

Patumahoe Road

Pukekohe

Thursday 8th March 2018



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. At the time of writing this, we reflect on what has been an unusual summer period—but what is ‘usual’? We are all aware that weather patterns appear to be more extreme, which for outdoor vegetable production provides increasing challenges for everyone involved.

As for Seed and Field—well, as you can see we have some ‘new faces’ join our team, and some exciting changes for our business moving forward.

PHILIP PICOT

Philip Picot—Editor

INTRODUCING

In January 2018 Johan started working with Seed and Field Services. Johan previously worked with Clause Vegetable Seeds as their Sales and Development Manager in New Zealand, and prior to that with Living Foods (A leading producer of pre-packed baby leaf salads) for five years as a Farm Manager/Agronomist. Johan has an intimate knowledge of the Clause Vegetable Seed portfolio and will be concentrating on developing that side of Seed and Field’s business.

Johan started his career by working for the Small Grain Institute, a department of the South African Agricultural Research Council. He spent 2 1/2 years there as a research Project Leader specializing in Herbicide & Weed management.

After his research work, Johan moved into a role as an Extension Officer with McCains Foods (South Africa). His role there focused on providing technical advice to contract growers, specifically on sweetcorn, sweet potatoes, broccoli and carrots and focusing on all aspects of production from variety selection, planting, through to scheduling of crop harvesting.

Johan holds an MSc in Agriculture from the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa). Undergraduate studies were focused on Plant Pathology and Agronomy.

JOHAN FOURIE



CALLUM WOOLF



Callum joined Seed and Field in September of 2017.

Callum is a passionate horticulturist with five years of experience in the industry. He has a background in hydroponic crop management and contemporary agricultural production.

Callum oversees Seed and Field’s extensive field trial program, assessing the performance of new vegetable varieties in the Pukekohe area.

Callum has a BSc in Chemistry and Computer Science from the University of Auckland.

ONION SEED COATINGS

SEEDPELL®

SeedPell is a light weight pellet for vegetable species. The pellet provides an optimum speed of emergence and superior uniformity under a range of environmental conditions. SeedPell has a smooth finish and strong integrity that holds up under planter stress. It is also possible to apply higher rates of approved chemicals safely to pelleted seed. Performance and quality consistency are the prime benefits of Seed Enhancements SeedPell vegetable pellets. Use in pneumatic (vacuum) or Stanhay belt seeders.

SEEDPELL PLUS®

SeedPell Plus is a heavier pellet formulated specifically for areas of lower fertility or newly, out of pasture type situations. SeedPell Plus has a blend of starter fertilisers and beneficial microbes to help the young plant quickly establish and thrive. This pellet is also suitable for growers simply requiring a heavier pellet.

SEEDPELL LIGHT®

A lighter weight coating increasing seed size to achieve greater drilling accuracy and singulation when using pneumatic (vacuum) drilling equipment. SeedPell Light has a smooth finish and strong integrity to avoid 'chipping' and blocking of vacuum seed plates.

ENVIROPELL®

EnviroPell is an Asure Quality certified organic seed coating that uses a naturally occurring, mined blend of clays. EnviroPell can be used in any full organic planting program. The EnviroPell coating can be used with most type of vegetable seeds.

SEED TREATMENTS



ILeVo® Prime

Every now and again a new product comes onto the market, that is a complete game changer. For the 2018 onion planting season **ILeVo® Prime** will be again available as a registered onion seed treatment. **ILeVo® Prime** exhibits outstanding white rot (*Sclerotium cepivorum*) control in the young onion crop. A strong healthy root system and a vigorous green top provide the plant with an excellent start to life.

Please contact us for more information.

ILeVo® Prime is a registered trademark of Bayer Group.



PRODUCT PROFILES

SUPERBA – RED CABBAGE

Can be used year round however Superba's main advantage is its speed and ability to keep producing good size heads during winter compared to other market standards. Leaf and head colour is similar to that of Red Baron, with an attractive internal colour that makes it suitable for processing.



SVNH1752 – ONION

New ELK Hybrid introduction from Seminis .

Maturity is similar to ELK, top down is very even falling between Christmas/New Year, and almost 100% within a few days. Tops seemed to die and dry back a lot quicker than ELK. Bulb shape is slightly flattened globe. Bulbs are very firm and very low incidence of bolters, virtually none.

1752 appears to have a wide potential seeding window, however the ideal time seems to be from late May until end of June.

Trial seed will be available for 2018.



TUSCAN – KALE

New hybrid “Cavalo Nero” Kale from Terranova offers excellent uniformity, vigour and disease resistance compared to traditional open pollinated varieties.

This hybrid variety has a long slender dark leaves with an attractive blue green colour and a heavy blister. The leaves are “flatter” which should be easier for packing or sleeving.



Plucked Tuscan Hybrid Kale leaves shown on the left next to standard open pollinated Cavalo Nero.

Outstanding introduction from Clause Pacific, “Yambu” is a smaller version of Capoeira, with an attractive green colour and a blistered leaf.

Yambu can be grown year round and is suitable for both twin packs, cos hearts or whole heads. Proven to date to be strong against tipburn and bolting.



JERADA – CARROT

Exciting new bunching carrot from RZ.

Jerada has shown to be a good performer throughout the year for both baby and bunching carrot growers and has proven its performance in trials for many seasons now.

Its success is due to the many traits that most growers really look for in carrots with Jerada ticking many boxes. Unlike any other bunching carrot, Jerada has a very strong, short, dark green top benefiting good crop aeration and top lifting possibilities. This strong top leads to a fine crown attachment and an even finer core size. Roots produce good length, colour and smooth skins very early on, eventually stumping out as a Nantes type with a crisp bite and superb eating qualities.



EARLY ONIONS

SHINTO

Outstanding extra early maturing hybrid brown onion from Terranova Seeds. Shinto has become well recognized in the Franklin area for it's high yield potential. Shinto's bulbs are typically globe shaped with very good quality and uniformity compared to other early onions. With it's good plant vigor being a feature, Shinto seems well suited to a range of soil types.

Sow early May to early June for a late November harvest.

LUCINDA

Tried for the first time in 2014 with good results. Lucinda is of similar maturity to Cutlass with good shaped firm bulbs that will offer some short term storage. Like Cutlass, Lucinda will offer early maturity with much improved quality bulbs than the very early types, with possibly more yield potential than Cutlass.

Sow from May to early June for an early December harvest

CURRAWONG

New Introduction from Seminis, Currawong(SV8968) is an early maturity ELK type, similar to Ayoba. Currawong has shown in trials improved Downey Mildew resistance, good yield potential with good quality.

Sow from late May to early June for a late December harvest

SWEET RED IMPROVED

As the name suggests, an improved Sweet Red type with the advantage of being a more globe shaped bulb, dark red skins and good early internal colour. Can be sown in a similar time frame to Sweet Red, and has shown good bolt tolerance in early sowings.

Sow early May for a late November harvest.

MALBEC

Malbec is now well established as the favored early red variety for growers. Malbec matures slightly later than Sweet Red, with much improved shape and colour and is a good option to follow on from Sweet Red with much improved quality. Bulb shape is a globe to flattened globe on larger bulbs, that also offers some short term storage.

Sow late May to early June for an mid December harvest.

PINOTAGE

Pinotage is an early red hybrid that produces dark red globe shaped bulbs, with good early internal colouration. Pinotage has a very vigorous plant that has shown to perform in a range of soil types and conditions, and shows an ability to yield well, with bulbs sizing exponentially at maturity. Sound bulbs of Pinotage will also offer some short/medium term storage offering growers some flexibility.

Sow from late June to early July for an early January harvest.

CROP COVERS

FLEECE

- Fleece is used mainly to control temperature for bringing crop maturity forward, and protection from frost.
- It must be laid tight like a bedsheet and will stretch as the crop grows. It is best secured with soil or sandbags.
- Will last for 1—2 seasons dependent on conditions
- Both fungicides and herbicides can be sprayed through Fleece but the Fleece must be completely dry for it to work.
- Fleece thickness is measured by weight (grams per square metre). Standard roll sizes available ex SFS in Pukekohe is 12.25met wide x 250 met long with Fleece weights of 17,19 and 22 gm/sq metre.



In the pictures above we can see the results at establishment from early sown beans covered with 19gm sq met Fleece. These beans were seeded early September and the rows on the left covered, next to the right rows that remained uncovered. The covered beans were harvested 2 weeks earlier than the uncovered and comparative yields were 76gms per plant under Fleece compared to 29.6gms per plant in the uncovered row.

Early pumpkin grown under fleece (right row) versus uncovered (left row)

INSECT NET

- Designed to protect fruit and vegetable crops from insect attack, but also gives protection from birds and rabbits.
- The net creates a micro climate by giving shelter to the crop, and protection from hail and mild frosts—increases the temperature under the net by 1—2 degrees.
- Insect net is laid slack as it does not stretch—allowance must be made for plant growth.
- For insect protection net is best secured with soil to create a complete seal, but can also be secured with sandbags or pegs.
- The nets can be left in place on the crop from sowing to harvest. It is possible to spray chemical treatments through the nets, as long as the nets are dry.
- Nets come in various mesh sizes. Standard sizes are 0.3mm and 0.6mm. Roll sizes available ex SFS in Pukekohe are 3.65 and 13 metre widths, with roll lengths of 50,100 and 200 metres.

AUTUMN BRASSICA SOWING GUIDE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<u>Cauliflower</u>												
SV5982VC												
Galiote												
Escale												
Casper												
<u>Cabbage</u>												
228												
Lambada												
Red Baron												
Superba(red)												
<u>Broccoli</u>												
Marathon												
Heritage												
Kanga												
Kolya												
<u>Trial Varieties</u>												
Thunderdome												

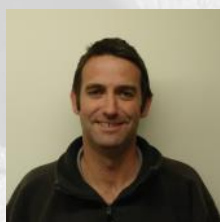
AUTUMN LETTUCE SOWING GUIDE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<u>Iceberg</u>												
Winguard												
Gitanas												
Siberinas												



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