

**Around the paddocks** *Your guide to new and used machinery*

# Sprayers save time and money

**R**obinvale table grape producers found significant water and chemical savings when spraying with a Martignani low volume tower sprayer.

Farmers at Albys Farms and Koala Grape Producers trialled the Martignani low volume electrostatic B6 12 Whirlwind 1000 litre tower sprayer alongside their existing nebuliser sprayers for three months.

With their existing sprayers, they sprayed each sizing of grapes with Gibberellic Acid at 1000 litres of water/acre, at three times 30 ppm on their Thompson seedless grapes.

Albys Farm tested the Martignani sprayer at 250 litre of water at three times 50 ppm/acre and 500 litre of water at three times 50 ppm/acre.

At 250 litre/acre, there was a 75 per cent water saving, a 58.4 per cent chemical saving and a grape sizing of 16-19 uniform and saleable fruit.

With the 500 litre/acre, there was a 50 per cent water saving, a 17 per cent chemical saving and a grape sizing of 17-21.

Koala Grape Producers tested at 250 litre of water/acre at three sprays at two different rates: three times 30 ppm and 120 ppm.

Both trials had a 75 per cent water saving. The first saved 75 per cent of chemicals while grape sizing ranged from 16-18, and the second used equivalent chemicals and grapes sized from 17-21.



(Left to right) Frank Zappia, John and Robert Albanese with Primtec dealer principal John Primerano.

Both farms said the trial was worthwhile and the fruit sprayed with the Martignani electrostatic low volume sprayer produced much cleaner fruit with far fewer black spots and no disease.

The Martignani electrostatic low volume sprayer is a versatile spray unit, as shown in the past on other foliage, and has the ability to target the fruit or leaves as required by the individual operator to enhance crop growth or reduce disease.

Vern Gibson of Murray Vineyards has been using Martignani sprayers for 14 years.

"The company purchased four Martignani spray units for disease and insect control on our 700 acres

(283 ha) of citrus and grapes," Mr Gibson said.

"They proved to be outstanding."

He said the units had halved his water, chemical and fuel costs.

"Maintenance and parts needs have been very low," Mr Gibson said.

Martignani low volume electrostatic sprayers can be used on apples, citrus, stone fruit and vegetables and can save farmers time and money.

Burder Ag Attachments imports Martignani equipment to Australia. Phone 57 22 23 43 or call in to the business in Kerr St, Wangaratta.



A Martignani sprayer.