

We would like to say how happy we are with the Fog Force bird scarer which we recently installed in our horse stables. We have found it to be pretty effective at keeping the birds out even though we haven't filled in the ends of the stables yet. There seems to be no ill effects on the horses and is easy to operate.

I expect our total bird problems will be over once we have the ends filled in and have the Fog Force in operation during the day. Many thanks for your great service to us and great communication.

- Josh, Rangiora

"We decided not to fit nets to the grapes this season but to try out the new Fog Force Bird Repellent in our vineyard for bird control. The results have been truly amazing and prove that this new bird repellent has got huge potential in the viticulture industry.

The 14 hectare rectangular shaped vineyard has usually suffered from very high bird pressure at one end where there is 400m of tall Hawthorn shelter belt and an orchard over the fence. We purchased a Super BirdXPeller Pro with a customised sound chip and a Predator Kite. These were set up in the worst area. We also purchased the Fog Force from Pestgard and hired a Thermal Fogger from them.

The Thermal Fogger was used two or three times a day for the first week and then only once every few days. The fog was applied approximately 100 metres upwind from the target and then the wind carried it through the block. We walked around the perimeter with the fogger and applied a short burst of fog every 20 or 30 metres. This gave us good coverage over the whole block and drove away the large flocks of Starlings and Silvereyes. It was extremely effective and you could smell the Fog Force fragrance a long way from our property. There is a shelterbelt row of gum trees about 300 metres from our property and we applied some fog 100 metres upwind as an experiment. It was amazing to watch the wind carry it down the line of trees and to see the effect that the trees have on the wind. It was quite different to what I had imagined. The birds didn't like it and flew away.

After the first week of fogging, there were still a few birds coming back, but they didn't stay around for very long and there was nothing like the bird damage we had other years.

During the harvest I drove a truck and picked up grapes from a lot of other vineyards and it was very satisfying to see that any bird damage we did receive was less than 10% of what a lot of the other growers have had to put up with.

We used 10 ½ litres of Fog Force during the season and at \$ 54.90 per litre, it worked out a hell of a lot cheaper than putting on nets. It is a major break through in bird control and has huge potential for saving growers a lot of money. Our nets were due for replacement next season but now we can look forward to saving \$ 16,000.00."

- T Campbell, Marlborough

We used the Thermal Fogger about 150m upwind of the Radish Seed and let the fog drift across the paddock. There were thousands of Sparrows and Finch in the area but they definitely moved away when the Fog Force was applied. We also have 1 acre of Blue Gums nearby where the birds like to roost. We found that by fogging the trees at dusk, we could shift thousands of birds away from the trees. Subsequently, we suffered very little damage to our radish seed crop compared to other years. The Rep told us that some of his clients' crops got caned by the birds this season. We will definitely be using Fog Force next year as an important tool for successful bird control."

- J Ellis, Ashburton

Hi,

This is the first year I have used fog force. My neighbour and I have been using it this season. There has been a definite drop in the bird population in our vineyards.

Although we haven't done any scientific study, the dawn chorus has become quite muted, and when I drive through a particularly at risk area I used to count about 60 birds, now it is down to about 5.

We still use nets in some areas of high risk, and a bird banger, but overall I am convinced that fog force works. We will certainly be using it again next season.

- Regards -Allan H



"After birds devastating my Gold Kiwifruit crop in 2009-2010 because of inability to keep good spray coverage up, due to continued wet weather: I decided to get serious about waging war on birds this season. Birds cost me in the previous season around \$120k in lost crops.

After a discussion with Pestgard I decided the only way to combat the bird problem was to be multi pronged, ie one method was not going to be completely successful; birds are too smart.

The main method or front line attack on the problem is the "surround sounds", ie the Super BirdXPeller Pro bird distress calls broadcast across the orchard associated with the flying of predator kites – Hawks, Falcons etc. This has kept the orchard devoid of bird damage through the green leaf bud break stage with no use of sprays.

Every now and again we fog the orchard and surrounds with [Fog Force in] a [thermal] fogger mounted on an ATV and drive around the orchard at about 15-20kph. This moves the birds instantly.

For the final stage of protection, as an insurance, we are spraying as the flower buds become visible.

Bird damage has been negligible to non-existent using the above methods and it's easy, constant, and inexpensive, after the initial outlay and definitely insignificant compared to crop loss.

The bird kites are so realistic when flying (also entertaining for the grandkids, when tied onto a fishing reel and line down the beach.)

When first implemented the resident birds went nuts when they heard the Super BirdXPeller Pro going – it was amazing.

I found that when first operated it took at least ½ an hour to 1 hour before the birds exited the orchard area completely. Initially they moved to the tops of the shelter before deciding that this was still too close for comfort and far too risky – but bolt they did. But rest assured they'll be back the following morning until the machine is activated, then it is extremely satisfying to see them bolt again as soon as it is turned on."

- R McKay, Opotiki

About thirty years ago Black Birds first became a problem, they started eating the Sundrop Apricots in early October when the fruit was about half the size of a golf ball very hard and obviously very green. This was quite disturbing to say the least as the fruit was left with large holes which did not heal therefore rendering them unable to be sold. In recent times Black Birds are having the same effect on our peaches and nectarines. They continue to destroy the fruit even after it has been thinned for four to six weeks, which is annoying. Bird scare guns did help but even with twelve gauge back up they still remain persistent.

When your business is Horticulture orientated problems are ongoing and solutions need to be found, so making contact with Pest Gard seemed well worth investigating regarding the bird issue. After speaking and talking over various options with Neil, we decided to trial the Fog Force bird repellent in our orchard.

The peach blocks were fogged twice a day for three days, then a break for three days, then once in the evening for three days, fogging every twenty-five metres. That application and ratio seemed completely adequate, as no Black Birds were seen or heard in these areas and damage ceased. An excellent result had been achieved, truly amazing. We also had great success with a variety of Apricots. The birds for some reason do not touch these until mature and a change of colour has taken place. The Thermal Fogger was used once in the evenings for four days, a break for two days then fogged again for two evenings. The result was staggering, the first time ever that no bird pecks, bird droppings or staining were found on the fruit.

Plums were fogged near harvest time for three days in the evenings, Black Birds and Sparrows were the target. Bird damage stopped immediately mission accomplished.

So having used the Thermal Fogger and experimented different options achieving an excellent result in so many different ways, we have now purchased the Fogger.

This machine has huge potential in the Horticultural industry for saving growers a lot of money and stress.

- B Clayton, Hawks Bay

