



Dear Client,

Welcome to the first edition of our SPANZ newsletter. This newsletter, and the one that will follow, are designed to provide our overseas clients with a valuable information source that relates to crop growing in New Zealand.

SPANZ is a small, but professional, Canterbury New Zealand based company devoted to growing a wide range of crop types for clients throughout Asia and the rest of the world and looks forward to any enquiry you may have, for more information on SPANZ please check out our web site

[www.spanz.co.nz](http://www.spanz.co.nz)

In this edition we will look at how the current spring has been for the Canterbury crops, the Canterbury Plains irrigation scheme and look at a visit by members of APSA to look at overseas multiplication in practice in Canterbury.

We hope you enjoy this information and please feel free to contact me if you have more information until next time.

Regards,

Stephen Finch

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### **Current spring growing conditions.**

As I write this newsletter it's the very first few official days of summer in New Zealand, however it feels like the end of winter. Spring in Canterbury has been difficult with cooler, drier and windier than normal conditions, in stark contrast with the rest of New Zealand which has had more than normal rain fall but also suffered cooler growing conditions. The strong winds we experienced this spring not only increased the amount of evapotranspiration occurring but also has damaged a lot of the irrigation infrastructure putting many farmers under pressure to keep up the required moisture levels required.

However that said many of the crops are looking very good and are starting to flower which is always a critical time.

### **The face of Canterbury farming set to change.**

Recently construction commenced on the long awaited Central Plains irrigation scheme which will change the face of Canterbury farming forever. It's my belief that while a lot of this area will eventually go into dairy farming there will also see an increase in crop growing potential.

In brief the Scheme lies between the Southern Alps to the west of Christchurch, and SH1 and the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, lying entirely within the Selwyn District Council District. The irrigation scheme has been designed for 60,000Ha, with potential to irrigate up to 80,000Ha if more water is available. With a current estimated construction cost of \$400 million (excluding on farm costs), the



consented CPW Scheme will be one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in the South Island.

The Scheme will utilise run of river water from both the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers. The Rivers will be linked with a 56km headrace canal running around the foothills and will channel water probably via a piped gravity distribution system through 500km of reticulation. Water within the canal will be about 4m deep and 20 – 25m wide at the surface. Irrigable land above the canal can be watered via pumped systems.

For more information on this scheme please follow this link:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_Plains\\_Water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Plains_Water)

#### **APSA study tour.**

The New Zealand Grain and Seed trade association (NZGSTA) recently welcomed ASPA members from Myanmar, China, Pakistan and Thailand to a study tour in Canterbury looking at Asian crop growing. The tour members looked at spinach, beetroot, peas, hybrid cabbages, carrots and many more crops produced in Canterbury.

Other activities included looking at crop harvesters in action, different types of irrigators, land use changes, visited a robotic dairy farm but still having time to also look and taste the best of Canterbury produce.

Many thanks must go to both ASPA and the tour's many local sponsors