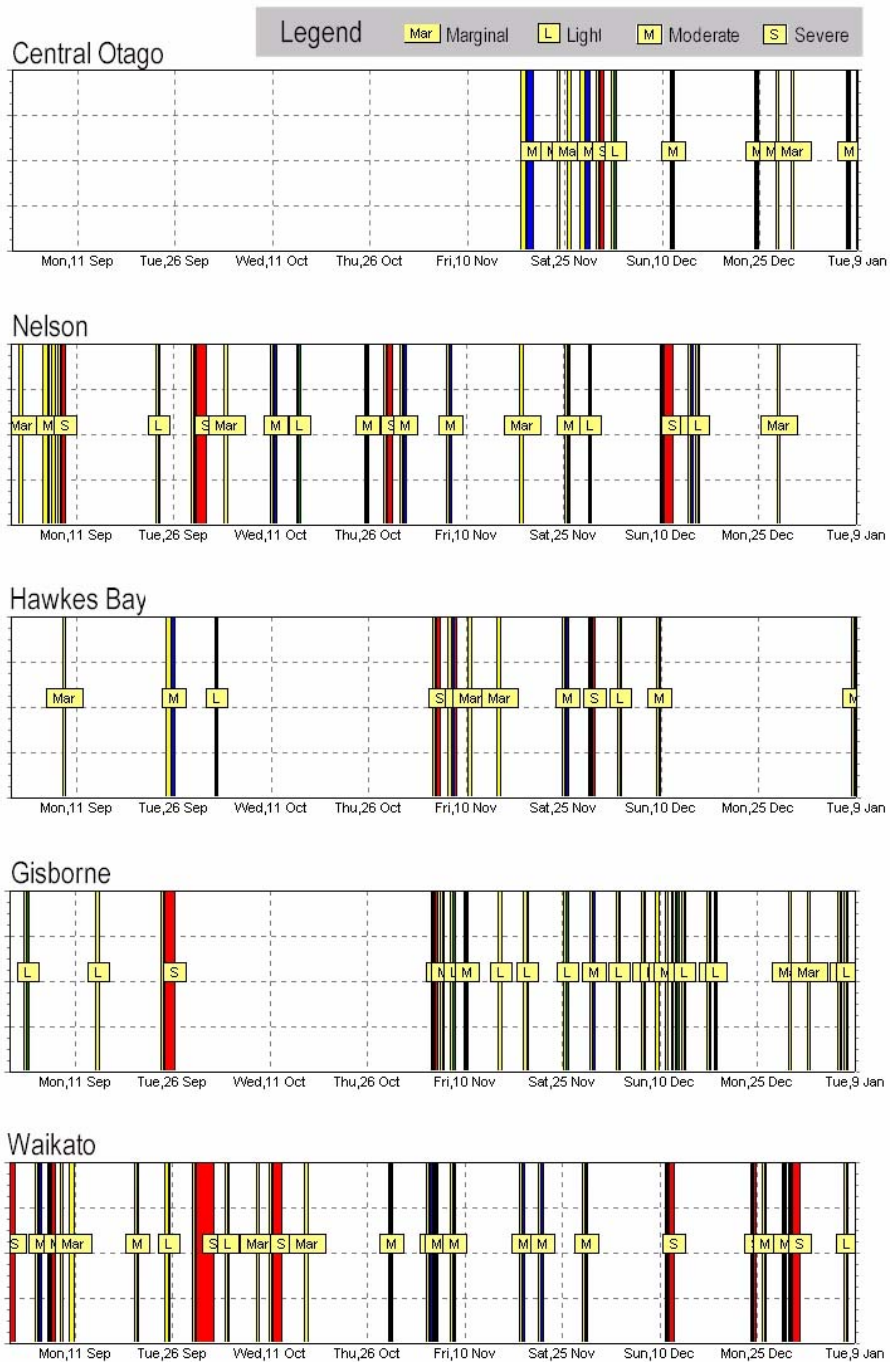
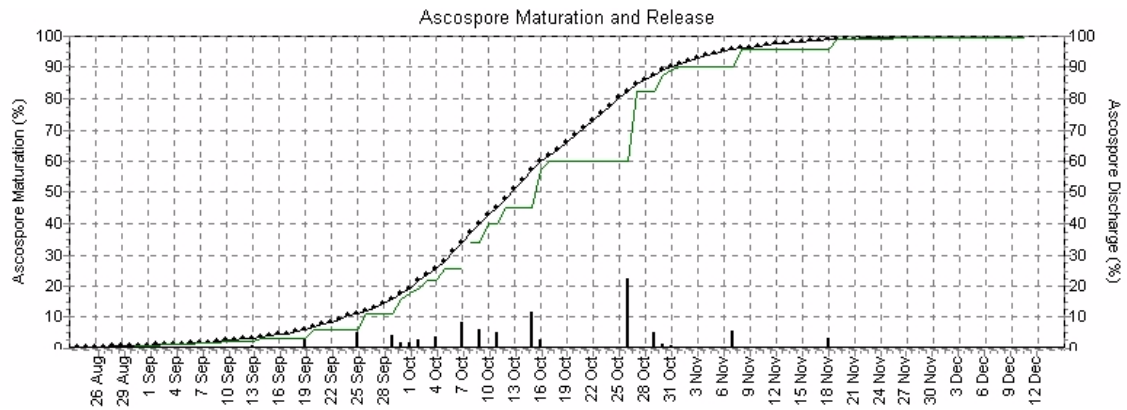


May You Live In Interesting Times
 Dr Trevor Atkins
 HortPlus

Pipfruit growers throughout the country faced highly varied disease pressure from Blackspot this year. Each region had tricky periods to contend with during the primary Blackspot infection period, and a number of growers may have been caught out by some of the late infection periods which occurred in many areas.



One of the new products from HortPlus this year is the Ascospore Release Model, based on the models developed and validated over a seven year period by Dr Robert Beresford of HortResearch. These models mimic the results that would be obtained by the laborious glass slide monitoring technique generally used to monitor spore release levels. The following graph illustrates the output from the Ascospore model for Nelson, and vividly shows the three very large release events occurring in that district.



In addition to helping with spray decisions, many growers are making very good use of this type of information towards the end of the season to review the spray decisions they made and to evaluate where they may have lost effective control. Space does not allow us to print results from the ascospore model for more regions, but you can find them on the HortPlus web site at www.hortplus.com if you need further information.