

MISTY VALLEY

NURSERY NEWSLETTER

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REX'S PRACTICAL TIPS #9 Spring 2005

Weather Watching Time!



The buds are bursting,
so... it's weather watching time!

As grape growers we have a natural connection with the land, a strong need to know how the weather will affect our management in both the short and long term.

Some years ago a friend who is a keen sailor directed me to a wonderful weather website. When a boatie tells you that he has found a *reliable* source of weather prediction that's *free*, it pays to listen.

The site in question is found at www.metvuw.com. It's run by James McGregor at Victoria University. Through the growing season I consult this site almost daily. It gives both

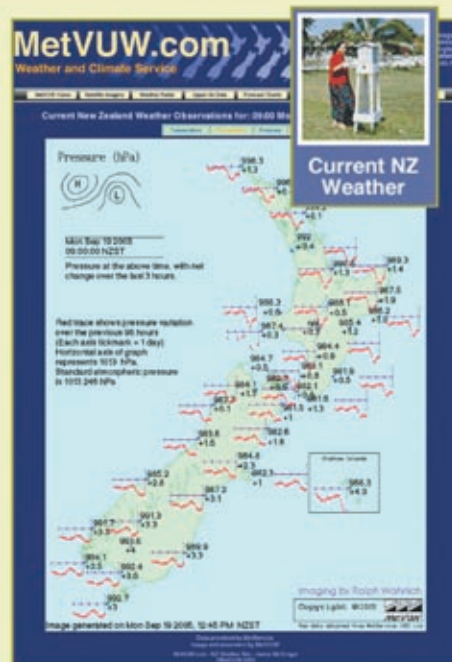
current data and forecast information. Here's the pages I find the most useful:

NB: If your PC has a pop-up blocker installed you will need to turn it off to access the site fully. **Don't forget to turn it back on again.**

The screenshot shows the MetVUW.com website interface. At the top, it says 'MetVUW.com Weather and Climate Service'. Below that, there's a navigation menu. The main content area features a grid of nine small circular images, each showing a different view of the weather radar. A larger, more detailed radar image is shown in a separate window at the bottom right, labeled 'Weather Radar'. The website also includes a 'Click on any image to see enlarged view' instruction.

WEATHER RADAR

Updated every three hours. This page gives a nine hour sequence with rain intensity. This allows you to see direction and speed of movement of rain events. Note that some small areas cause "radar bounce" so appear to be under perpetual rainfall. Unfortunately Gisborne and Hawkes Bay are not covered by radar. You can click on individual frames to enlarge them.



CURRENT NEW ZEALAND WEATHER

Four useful pages in this section. The ones I use the most are:

Temperature: Shows both temperature and humidity on a three hourly basis at your nearest station.

Pressure: Shows current atmospheric pressure, the change over the last three hours, and over the last four days. Because it shows the whole country you can very easily learn to pinpoint the exact centre of highs and lows as they pass over the country and make some sound judgements about wind and



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