

FERRARI EXPANDS FOOTPRINT WITH NEW SPECIALTY TRACTOR MODELS

WITH THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF HORTICULTURE AND VITICULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMY, SPECIALITY TRACTORS ARE BECOMING A REGULAR FEATURE AT AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY DEALERSHIPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

One tractor that has enjoyed a long, successful reputation in this sector across New Zealand is Ferrari. The Norwood group and their independent dealers first introduced the Ferrari brand in the 1990s.

More than 20 years later it remains an important niche product in the Norwood portfolio, and interest in the range is growing rapidly.

Norwood Ferrari brand manager Kyle Baxter says he is excited about the growth of the brand this year.

"Ferrari's unique green-coloured tractors are appearing in all regions around New Zealand. We have an extensive dealership network across the country, including dealerships in the key horticultural regions, and we are adding further new dealerships in 2020 in Cromwell and Taupo.

"This means growers and contractors can be sure that they will have the latest Ferrari products backed up by excellent aftersales support."

Kyle says the success of the Ferrari brand is due to its extensive product line up, which means there is a tractor for every horticulture application.

The Ferrari range extends from two-wheel, walk-behind tractors with a vast range of attachments, through to the more common four wheel drive tractors for orchards.



VEGA L80 AND K105

Among the latest releases from Ferrari is the all new Vega L80 and K105 ranges of tractors, both of which are efficient performers and environmentally friendly. They have electronically-operated Stage IIIB 98-hp and 75-hp engines that comply with strict European standards for emission control.

Kyle says electronic engine rpm management on the Vega L80 and K105 is fast and precise. It controls speed changes, set speeds, and the electronic governor. Set engine rpm speeds can be recalled by simply pressing a button, which improves efficiency and saves time and fuel.

ADVANTAGES

"All specialised tractors must be handy to manage so that they can be operated in very narrow areas. The new Vegas give outstand-

FERRARI VEGA TRACTORS CAN BE SPECIFIED WITH A PRESSURISED CAB THAT PROTECTS THE OPERATOR FROM DUST AND SPRAYS.

ing manoeuvring, thanks to their short wheel-base and compact size.

"The steering wheel is power assisted through a dedicated hydraulic system. It gives precise movement and a tight turning radius, especially in Dualsteer versions."

Ferrari's Dualsteer system is unique. It is a double steering system that joins the central joint of the frame to the steering of front wheels, so the steering angle can reach 70 degrees. Dualsteer gives high precision at low speeds and stability during road transport.

These machines are perfect for work in narrow vineyards or orchards, in greenhouses, gardening and landscaping.

Vega K105 and L80 tractors have a low centre of gravity and an even distribution of weight on the axles when an implement is coupled to the rear lift. The operator's seat has a roll-bar or cab to protect the driver.

The differential lock (front-and-rear or rear only) is electro-hydraulically operated and the tractor can be in traction all the time.

A new AirTech Compact cab is available. It is pressurised and approved for Category 4, so it insulates the operator from dust, aerosol and vapours while providing the highest level of protection to the operator during spraying.

The two large active carbon filters are installed at the front of the cab and are easy to replace. A display on the dashboard

NEW FERRARI VEGA TRACTORS HAVE A LOW CENTRE OF GRAVITY AND AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEIGHT ON THE AXLES WHEN AN IMPLEMENT IS ATTACHED.



FERRARI REVS UP CHERRY ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL OTAGO CHERRY ORCHARDIST MATT SMITH'S FERRARI RS VEGA 85 ORCHARD TRACTOR IS PROVIDING HIM GREATER EFFICIENCIES IN THE FIELD AND THE ABILITY TO SAFELY PERFORM A WIDE RANGE OF TASKS.

Matt operates his own 4-ha Cromwell orchard, Amisfield Farm, and also looks after eight other orchards for local clients.

He purchased the Ferrari Vega 85 DS tractor in 2016 when he realised he needed a tractor with a tighter turning circle for the ends of rows. He knew of several other orchardists who had Ferrari tractors and found them ideal for their operations, so he did not look any further.

"It is dual steer so it turns tighter and it is four-wheel drive so it is really good on the hill country," Matt says.

"It is a very low tractor and can get under the trees without disturbing the branches or knocking

the fruit."

Ferrari Vega dual-steer tractors are workhorses that offer excellent manoeuvrability. With their low-driving position and a compact cab, they give orchardists and horticulturalists the ability to work where they need to.

"The cab is quite compact, but I am a smaller guy so it is comfortable for me," says Matt.

"Having the cab is great as I am not exposed to the chemicals while I am spraying and it has got a carbon filter so it has fresh air coming in. The air-conditioning in the summer is fantastic. It can be 30-plus degrees outside and I am good with the aircon on inside."



MATT SMITH SAYS HIS FERRARI VEGA IS LOW ENOUGH TO WORK UNDER HIS CHERRY TREES WITHOUT DISTURBING BRANCHES OR FRUIT.



WITH ITS PRESSURISED CAB AND CARBON FILTERS, HIS FERRARI VEGA KEEPS MATT SMITH SAFE WHEN HE IS SPRAYING.

The Vega 85 DS has an 85 hp engine, which Matt finds more than enough to drive his range of implements, which include a mulcher, a 2000-litre sprayer and a 2.7-m mower.

"I am towing about two tonne up a hill and it does it easy. One of my clients has a block that is very hilly. I offset the weight on the back from the mulcher or mower by putting weight on the front, which has worked well," says Matt.

"It is my only orchard tractor and I really like it. I don't use it much in the winter because that is when we are pruning. It gets parked for three months of the year but that's about it."

Ferrari's orchard tractors feature up to eight hydraulic outlets at the rear to connect equipment that requires high-capacity hydraulic supply, often used in vineyard cultivations.

The Vega's 16 x 16 speed transmission with synchronised reverser and helical gears offers top performance and also improves comfort and drivability. Designed to avoid gear overlaps in the four ranges, you will always find just the right gear for the job.

The Ferrari's long-life clutch is a multiple-disc hydraulic clutch running in an oil bath, with no adjustment or maintenance required.

Matt says the tight-turning circle is one of the best features of the Ferrari RS Vega 85 tractor, along with the four-wheel drive which gives him plenty of power.

The four-wheel drive can be disengaged on the front axle with an electro-hydraulic control, which gives more movement on steep slopes and uneven ground or the ultimate performance on the road.

"Our Ferrari hasn't let me down and I use it to look after about 30 hectares of cherry orchards," Matt concludes. **RC**

allows the driver to control the internal pressure of the cab, ensuring maximum protection from potentially harmful vapours.

The AirTech Compact cab comes standard with air conditioning and heating, fabric seat,

internal lighting and auxiliary sockets to charge electronic devices.

The ventilation system is an automotive design, with air vents in front of the operator to guarantee ideal temperature and to direct the air flow.

The low-profile single-body chassis is completely independent from the tractor and is mounted on silent blocks to reduce vibrations and noise.

The low height off the ground makes working under the foliage and in pergola vineyards, canopy

plantations and greenhouses extremely easy.

There are 11 different versions of the new Vega K105 and L8 range, each of which is designed to meet the particular needs of different types of farming operations. **RC**