agrovista
fruit

Crop load adjustment

Blossom and fruitlet thinning for top fruit

#ForOurGrowers

Seasonal crop load adjustment is essential in achieving the best quality fruit at the required size.
The earlier the correct crop load is achieved, the better the fruit quality will be.

This is achieved through a combination of thinning techniques - blossom, chemical fruitlet and hand.

Blossom thinning

Apply **ATS** during bloom to burn the flower parts ahead of pollination and fertilisation. For Gala, the best quality fruit is produced on the older spurs, as fruit produced on one-year-old wood will be smaller and of poorer quality.

The objective is to allow enough early bloom to set and then to begin regular applications of **ATS** to prevent later bloom from setting. The number, timing and frequency of applications will be determined by pollination conditions and the speed at which flowers are opening. Blossom thinning is only effective on open flowers and on flowers open for less than one day.

Important:

- Adjust the concentration of the product and water volume according to the weather conditions
- Apply early in the day when conditions are cooler so that the drying time is extended

This requires careful planning and should be discussed in advance with your Agrovista agronomist.

Fruitlet thinning using MaxCel

MaxCel is effective in adjusting crop-load if the (spring) temperatures are suitable. It's active ingredient 6-benzyladenine, is a growth regulator, which promotes cell division within growing areas of the tree. This causes the weakest fruit to be shed and the strongest to remain.

Timing	When the fruit size is 10-12mm
Dose rate	0.75 litres per 100 litres
Water volume	1000 l/ha
Weather	Best when temperatures post application exceed 18°C

Fruitlet thinning using Brevis

Brevis is an innovative fruit thinning solution for apples and pears. Active ingredient metamitron disrupts the photosynthetic process for 7-10 days post application.

Timing	When the fruit size is 10-12mm
Dose rate	1.1-2.2kg/ha
Applications	Maximum of 2 applications

Brevis Stewardship

Check together with your Agrovista agronomist the BREVISTMART model.

- Do not tank mix
- Leave a 7 day interval for oily formulations and SDHI fungicides
- Do not apply to wet leaves
- High rates can cause over thinning on M9
- Do not use on young orchards
- Aim to apply between 10°C and 25°C
- Night temperatures above 10°C can cause over thinning
- Rainfast 2 hours after application
- Use a water volume of 1000l/ha

Hand thinning

The final adjustment of crop load and fruit quality is achieved through hand thinning.

A well-timed blossom thinning and/or chemical fruitlet thinning programme will help to mitigate what could be a costly hand thinning operation.

Precision crop adjustment

The best results are achieved when the crop adjustment is performed at tree-by-tree level.

Using **AUREA TreeScout/drone** imagery, we can finetune the applications.

Initially, we can treat individual trees during blossom with ATS or we can make applications for increasing fruit set of the trees that require that.

Subsequently, we can reduce unnecessary fruitlet thinning to trees with light blossom, while targeting the trees with high levels of blossom.

Following the orchard assessments, we can opt for the best approach, optimising fruit load in the orchard at tree level.

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