#ForOurGrowers

agrovista fruit



Best practice

The preparation, planting and maintenance of new orchards

It is vital you do everything in your power to ensure that newly-planted trees are able to establish in a stress-free environment, reaching break-even yield points as soon as possible.

Our advice is to support you in achieving this objective.



1. Preparation

- If following a previous tree crop, after grubbing, ensure all tree debris is collected and burned so as to reduce the chance of disease carry-over to the new orchard
- If new windbreaks need to be established, this should be done now. For a suitable mixture of species which will not harbour disease but will encourage beneficial insects, consult your Agrovista agronomist
- **A herbicide plus Companion Gold** should be applied **2-3 weeks before planting** to control perennial weeds which are present. Consult your Agrovista agronomist regarding your choice of herbicides to **best address** the weed spectrum
- **A full soil health assessment should be carried out**; this provides chemical, physical and biological solutions necessary to manage soils for the benefit of soil stability. Any deficiencies can then be corrected by following the advice produced in the report providing practical solutions
- The field should then be thoroughly sub-soiled to remove any compaction and then power-harrowed
- Ideally, there should be a break of at least one year between grubbing and replanting, during which time the ground should be cultivated and put down to a deep-rooting grass/clover mix. Agrovista can advise on, and supply, such mixes



2. Planting

- It is important to start planting when ground conditions are adequate; unsuitable conditions will affect good establishment
- If the orchard is to be fertigated, planting may be delayed until the spring when the soil temperature has increased. This will allow the trees to grow away without hindrance
- We recommend applying **10g of RGPRO Horti 1 to each planting station**. RGPRO Horti 1 is a blend of 5 Arbuscular mycorrhiza fungi, which will grow in association with the roots, effectively increasing the root surface area and allowing better uptake of nutrients and water
- **A 20g application of controlled release fertiliser Agroblen 15.9.9 12/14 month should be mixed with the soil in each planting station**

3. Post planting

- Once planting is complete, the soil should be allowed to settle around the roots for approximately one week
- We recommend **assessing the weed presence and spectrum and considering the application of residual herbicides to the strip** (i.e. Stomp Aqua/Flexidor/ Kerb) as well as adding contact herbicide if required. The herbicide application should be made together with a **suitable adjuvant Remix/Companion Gold**
- If fertigation is installed then you should begin watering and feeding as soon as the trees begin to grow or immediately after planting if planting in the spring. For a suitable programme please contact your Agrovista agronomist
- **We recommend applying compost or a deep mulch of straw** to the herbicide strip as soon as the residual herbicide mixture has been applied. If fertigation is not possible, the addition of compost is even more important
- In fertigated orchards, you may allow about 7 fruit per tree in the first year
- **For alleyways Agrovista can supply a mix of hardwearing grass species that is robust enough to withstand seasonal orchard machinery operations**
- **The Agrovista Fruit team recommend establishing flower mixes in orchard alleyways to improve the level of orchard beneficials and help increase the soil microbiology.** Good presence of orchard beneficials is becoming increasingly important for achieving good control of orchard pests.

** (Do not use Companion Gold with Stomp Aqua)



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Use plant protection products safely. Always read the label and product information before use.