



POMEWEST
Serving WA Pome Growers



Agricultural Produce Commission

Pomewest Committee and Officers

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APC-Pomewest FFS Income 2016-17

Project	\$
General Account Budget	450,000
Biosecurity Account Budget	60,000

APC-Pomewest major projects 2017-18

Project	\$
Commercialisation for WA (FW Co-operative Ltd)	120,000
<small>Note less 50% salary reimbursed for professional services of Nardia Stacy as executive officer as in 16-17 financial year.</small>	
New Technology Project (Susie Murphy White)	52,000
Study Tour to NZ	31,000
Flavonoid Project	40,000
Market Access Project	50,000
Annual Meetings and Communications	14,500
Medfly Surveillance Trapping Network (Ashmere Consulting)	60,000
Codling Moth (DPIRD)	35,000
Maturity Standards Legislation and Compliance	45,000
Industry Sponsorships and Association Memberships	12,500
Promotion & Publicity Local Project (Fresh Finesse)	24,000
Administration	148,060
APC Administration Charge	45,000

APC fee for service charge

POME fruit effective from 1 January 2015

Type of fruit	\$/kg
Fresh fruit — apples, pears, Nashi, other	0.015
Processing fruit	0.005
Biosecurity FFS for fresh fruit	0.002
Biosecurity FFS for processing fruit	0.001

From the Pomewest Executive Manager



BY NARDIA STACY
EXECUTIVE MANAGER,
POMEWEST



Spring on its way, it will be the chill hours and rain that will form the foundations for the next season. 2017 looks set to be a very low chill hour year.

The hours started to accumulate in late March and is so far is tracking in line with some of the warmest years on record. A snapshot in mid-August, shows that Manjimup have accumulated 50 chill portions, Donnybrook 35 and Bickley 43. From this information we can expect to see a long and protracted flowering season.

Good rain in July and August have turned the season around a little and created a little more positive outlook for water supply.

The Committee has approved funding of 2017-18 projects (see column to the left of this article). Chosen under the guidance of the Pomewest strategic and biosecurity plans, the Committee has directed activities for the continued development and benefit of the apple and pear industry. It is acknowledged that the sale prices this year for this category have been challenging and the focus remains to lifting production and efficiency systems, quality management, variety development, addressing market access and minimising biosecurity risk. This will develop and build markets and the return to the grower. We continue look to export as the golden ticket.

► A weather snapshot in mid-August, shows that we can expect to see a long and protracted flowering season.



Other planned activities for 2017–18 funding year

Study Tour NZ

Planning is in full swing for a study tour to NZ in February and is open to all members for the opportunity to visit orchards in New Zealand and encourage the transfer of orchard technology. We are also excited to offer 5 x \$1000 scholarships for young growers or orchard staff to take advantage of this opportunity. We believe that study tours are an essential part of the orchard technology transfer process necessary in the WA Pome fruit industry. It will influence participants on the impact of important decision making, feeding conversations and changing practices in the industry. At present there is a generational shift in some WA orchards, this is an opportunity to encourage the future orchardists to identify and develop new skills and techniques which can be adapted to suit their own circumstances. Details are available by contacting Susie Murphy White see this edition for more information.

Minimum maturity standards — Royal Gala, Pink Lady™ and Granny Smith

Inch by inch we grow closer to our attempt to legislate the standards for the 2018 season. Industry has supported this and been involved in the approval of this activity. Pomewest will continue to fund compliance through the value chain to give our customers the very best of a taste experience when they taste our WA apples, and we will support our growers to make sure this is achievable.

Fruit fly surveillance trapping

This project continues this year and makes good progress to date. This project identifies industry driven surveillance. Key data collection is an important tool in proving region, area or state freedom from pests of quarantine concern and in turn for us to use to open and retain market access. Data obtained to date shows low medfly numbers in some orchards in Donnybrook, Kirup, Manjimup and Pemberton this potentially can support a future market access protocol.

Promotion

With Noelene Swain from Fresh Finesse we continue to support fruit in various activities, including school programs, seasonal media and various field days and shows including our major event for the year the Perth Royal Show. Hort Innovation have committed funds of \$10,000 to support this activity and we ask



BRAVO™
trialled in
Singapore

► **ABOVE L-R:** Jenny Mercer, Steele Jacob and the Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC.

► **RIGHT:** Southern Forest apple grower Nick Markovski.

that growers support the event by making time to coming contribute their expertise and so the public can 'Meet the Grower' a very important aspect in connecting with our eaters.

Our social media on Facebook and Instagram continues for WA Apples and Pears which is a great medium to share positive stories about our products. In the coming year we will look to increase activities to include competitions, and sport sponsorships.

Export news

Great news that the BRAVO™ branded apple is being trialled in Singapore under marketer Jenny Mercer of WA Farm Direct and will make its international debut at the 2017 Asia Fruit Logistica in September this year. From humble beginnings this apple is set to make its mark on the global market.

More news is that this month a shipment of 1,200 cartons of Granny Smith apples ex Manjimup are on their way to Hong Kong. Branded under the Genuinely Southern Forest with the marketing partnership of Allstates — this is again welcomed news for industry.

It's wonderful to see the quality of WA produce is starting to be recognised by the Asian export markets. This news should give growers confidence that export opportunities do exist and there are avenues available. Exciting times ahead!



In addition, the pome industry applauds the Fruit West Co-operative Ltd who has just been announced as recipients being awarded Grower Grant Research and Development for \$380,000 and an Industry Grants for International Competitiveness grant for \$60,000. The benefits for industry is that means funding to fast track export activities for BRAVO™ being conducting a cost benefit analysis for an investment prospectus, developing a best practice manual for the supply chain, customer profiling activities, brand awareness and value adding all objectives of the project.

Biosecurity

We continue to talk and progress our biosecurity risk management and planning with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Agriculture and Food.

Finally, as we always advise, our door is open; we welcome any queries or suggestions from our members. Please feel free to contact me any time for a chat. 🍏

MORE INFORMATION ►

Contact Nardia Stacy on (08) 9368 3869 or nardia@pomewest.net.au

New committee members

We welcome Jason Jarvis and Wayne Ghilarducci as new members of the Pomewest committee. The committee recently met on Wednesday 2 August. Minutes of the meeting are available to Pomewest members on request.



Jason Jarvis

Jason is a third generation fruit grower, his family farm 'Happy Valley' in Donnybrook was cleared by his grandfather in 1939. He has been part of the fruit industry since leaving university in 1993. He is well accomplished, completing his Diploma of Horticultural Business in NZ and in 2007 he won a Nuffield Scholarship. On his return from completing his degree, he partnered with his parents, purchased a compact grader and started and managed a contract packing business. He then travelled the world studying organic fruit production and converted the business to certified organic trading as Prime Organics and supplying fruit, some vegetables, eggs and beef Australia wide.

Jason, through his father Henry, has always had an interest in industry and has joined the committee – as he says 'rather than sit back and complain he should get involved and make changes if necessary.' Jason sees Pomewest as a structure to stabilise and collect resources that allows commercial producers to do business in a competitive environment without the added stress of dealing with bureaucracy and politics



► L-R: Harvey Giblett, Mark Scott, Sam Licciardello, Mario Casotti, Wayne Ghilarducci and Jason Jarvis.

involved with wider industry issues. Apple and pear growing in WA has a strong future as long as producers can exceed customer expectations and so does Pomewest. This is achievable with good communication at all levels and an understanding of what the expectations are with some creative thinking and measured actions is the key.

He believes that fruit growing is challenging at the best of times – Organics especially – but it is very rewarding. His goal is to have a successful farming business that his children are eager to be involved with and see as a noble and financially rewarding career.



Wayne Ghilarducci

Wayne is a third generation fruit grower and you could say growing fruit is in his blood. It has been a passion for him since he left school in 2000 and his career ever since. The Ghilarducci Orchard is a family business located in Karragullen in the Perth Hills area and has been established for around 50 years.

Why did he put up his hand for the Pomewest Committee? Well Wayne is keen to do his part for industry and be a part of making some positive changes.

He believes that the industry has been doing things a little tough in recent years. He hopes by joining Pomewest he can bring a younger generation's perspective and he hopes make a difference and some improvements.

Wayne is extremely enthusiastic about growing fruit. He understands the value of trialling new varieties and the importance of being innovative. Again his fundamental goal is about growing a prosperous and sustainable business for his family for the future. He also cares about his fellow growers. He also sees export as a huge opportunity, especially to Asia, and the importance of providing quality fruit to all our consumers to stabilise and build market demand for the benefit of the next generations. 🍏

MORE INFORMATION ►

Contact Nardia Stacy on (08) 9368 3869 or nardia@pomewest.net.au





Future Orchards Walk

Winter 2017
Manjimup



BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE
PROJECT MANAGER,
POMEWEST

Thank you to our June Orchard Walk hosts Joe and Lucy Fontanini in Manjimup, another successful orchard walk.

The theme of 'Future Trees' continued with presentations focusing on selecting new varieties to plant and considering the options with club varieties by AgFirst's Steve Spark. The varietal mix in the orchard can affect the profitability of the orchard, so choosing a club variety that can make good returns is essential.

Researching the variety and making sure that it can fit within your orchard business and grow well on your orchard location will ensure good decisions pay well into the future.

An update on the research that has been undertaken by the PIPS program (Productivity, Irrigation Pests and Soils) was given by AgFirst's Ross Wilson. This included updates on each of the five projects; tree structure comparing artificial spur extension with chemical thinning, biennial bearing in apples, apple tree and fruit nutrition, profitable new pears and the release of biocontrol agent against codling moth.



► **BIOFUMIGATION** pre planting treatments at the Apples on Apples trial on 31 August 2017; David Grays' Green Fume mustard and rocket (TOP) and PGG Wrightson Ethiopian cabbage and mustard (BOTTOM).



► **MAIN IMAGE:** Artificial Spur Extension method of pruning to the number of buds demonstrated by Ross Wilson.

► **ABOVE:** Pruning demonstration by Steve Spark.

During the orchard walk pruning demonstrations were given by Ross and Steve. The Future Orchard trials were also seen by participants. The SNAP (Simple Narrow Accessible and Productive) trial provided much discussion on pruning styles and timing. At the Apples on Apples pre-planting treatment trial the biofumigation seed mixes of mustard, rocket and Ethiopian cabbage had germinated well and were looking impressive to all.

Thank you to all growers who attended the day and we look forward to seeing you again at the next Future Orchards Walk in late November 2017.

MORE INFORMATION ►

Call Susie Murphy White, Project Manager — Pomewest, phone (08) 9777 0151 or email susan.murphy-white@agric.wa.gov.au.



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Time to take steps to manage apple scab

BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE¹ AND JOHN SUTTON²
¹ POMEWEST
² DPIRD MANJIMUP

Apple scab (*Venturia inaequalis*) or black spot is caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis* and can have significant impact on apple production and will affect the West Australian apple industry if left unmanaged. Apple scab is present in WA and needs to be controlled to prevent it from becoming a widespread disease.

Winter orchard clean up must become a routine practice for the control of apple scab as it is for the management of other pests and diseases such as pear scab, Mediterranean fruit flies and *Alternaria* spp.

Apple scab or black spot disease can infect the aerial parts of apple trees including leaves, petioles, flowers, fruits, pedicels, young shoots and bud scales.

It is favoured by cool, rainy and humid spring and summer conditions. Leaves and fruits are highly susceptible to apple scab in their early stages of development. The disease spreads when plant tissues remain wet for a certain period of time at a particular temperature. This wetness/temperature combination is often referred to as 'Mills period' after the scientist who first defined the relationship (Table 1).

Apple scab has a predictable life cycle that starts in winter. The fungus survives winter primarily in fallen leaves. Microscopic flask-shaped black fruiting

bodies called pseudothecia will develop in infected leaves which have fallen on the orchard floor. Occasionally, in certain regions and on certain cultivars, the fungus can survive in infected bud scales and on twigs, as mycelium or conidia.

In spring the ascospores (sexual spores) contained in the pseudothecia reach maturity by September. When leaves on the orchard floor become wet, the ascospores are forcibly ejected into the air mostly during daylight hours. This discharge continues after rain events until late November to early December, by which time all the ascospores have been released. Most are discharged between the pink bud and petal fall stages. At this time of rapid growth, young plant tissues are highly susceptible to infection.

TABLE 1 Mills chart for predicting occurrence of apple scab

Average temperature (°C)	Wetting time required for infection in spring (hours)	Time required for scab lesions to appear (days)
5.6	30.0	>17
7.2	20.0	>17
8.3	17.0	>17
9.4	14.5	17
10.0	14.0	16
12.2	11.5	14
13.0	11.0	14
13.9–15.0	10.0	12–13
15.5	9.5	11
16–24.0	9.0	8–10
24.5	9.5	9
25.0	11.0	9
25.6	13.0	10

Source: Adapted from Mills and Laplante 1954, Cornell Extension Bulletin No. 711



Apple scab control



- ▶ **TOP:** Severe apple scab infection as seen on apple fruit.
- ▶ **ABOVE:** Apple leaves infected with apple scab spores as seen on the upper surface of apple leaves.

Air currents carry the ascospores into the trees and onto developing flowers, leaves and fruitlets where they adhere quickly on contact and resist removal by more rain. Stronger wind can transport them throughout the orchard as well as to adjoining orchards.

If the leaves and fruitlets remain wet long enough, the ascospores germinate and grow into the tissue.

Olive-green, velvety scab lesions will appear after 9 to 17 days, depending on temperatures. Infection is rare above average temperatures of 26°C. These

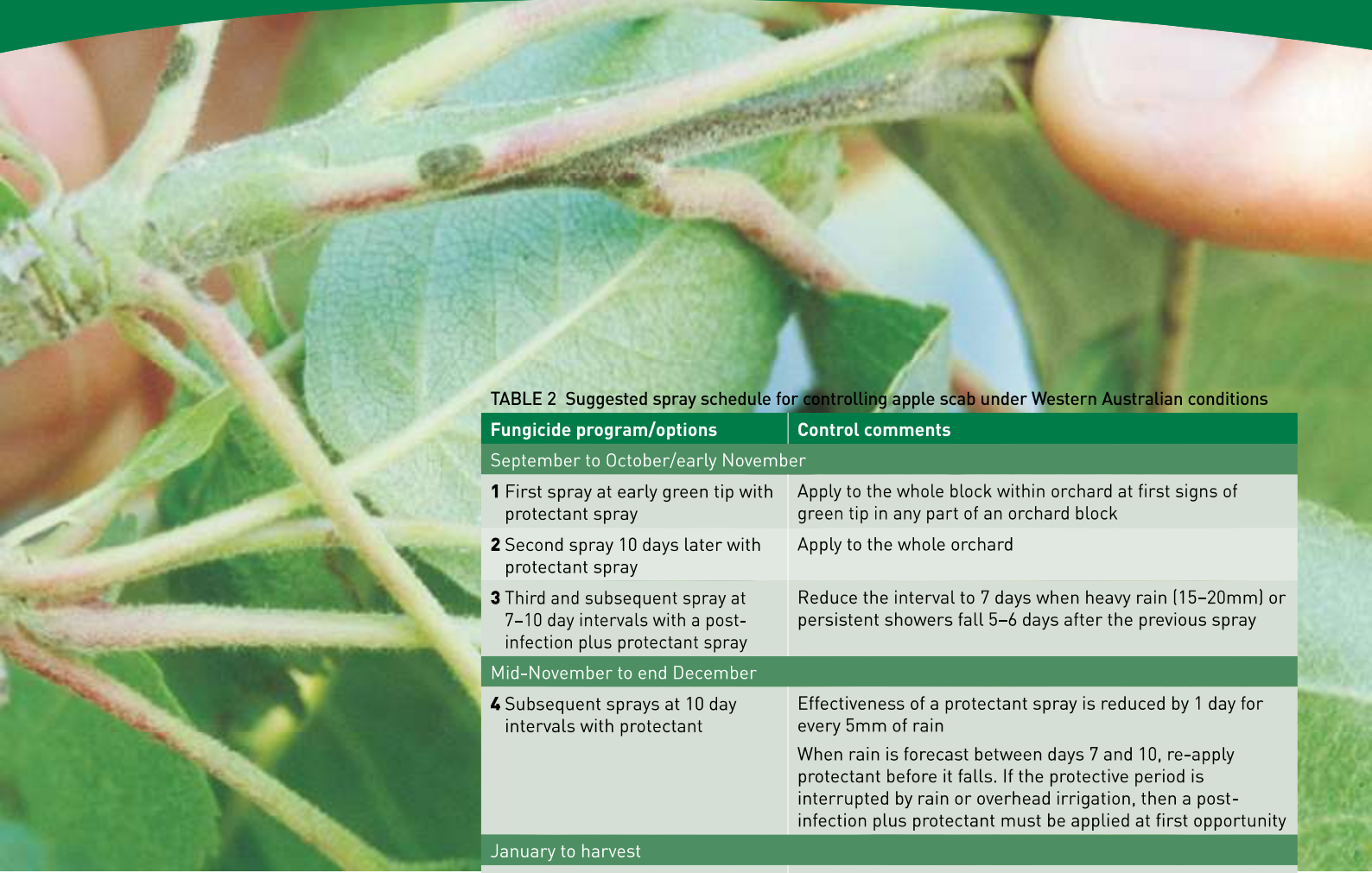


TABLE 2 Suggested spray schedule for controlling apple scab under Western Australian conditions

Fungicide program/options	Control comments
September to October/early November	
1 First spray at early green tip with protectant spray	Apply to the whole block within orchard at first signs of green tip in any part of an orchard block
2 Second spray 10 days later with protectant spray	Apply to the whole orchard
3 Third and subsequent spray at 7–10 day intervals with a post-infection plus protectant spray	Reduce the interval to 7 days when heavy rain (15–20mm) or persistent showers fall 5–6 days after the previous spray
Mid-November to end December	
4 Subsequent sprays at 10 day intervals with protectant	Effectiveness of a protectant spray is reduced by 1 day for every 5mm of rain When rain is forecast between days 7 and 10, re-apply protectant before it falls. If the protective period is interrupted by rain or overhead irrigation, then a post-infection plus protectant must be applied at first opportunity
January to harvest	
5 If required, subsequent sprays at 14–21 day intervals (post-infection and/or protectant)	Only spray if the disease is present and weather conditions favour secondary infections Respect withholding periods and export restrictions
After leaf fall	
6 Apply urea at 5%	This is to prevent development of pseudothecia (winter-fruiting bodies) and to assist with breakdown of leaf litter

► **LATE season apple scab infection as seen on the underside and petioles of apple leaves.**

spots are the result of primary infections and bear masses of dark conidia or summer spores.

Successful management of apple scab relies on a series of practices which target the disease at various stages of its life cycle. Creating conditions unsuitable to development of the disease will lower the need for chemical applications.

Orchard sanitation

The ascospores which mature in infected leaves on the orchard floor are the source of primary infections in spring. A high number of matured ascospores will lead to high risk of infection. Sanitation measures which reduce the winter inoculum will lower incidence of the disease in spring and include:

- postharvest autumn application of foliar urea to prevent the formation of pseudothecia and hasten the breakdown of leaves. Spray thoroughly on both sides of leaves in late autumn/early winter (May/June) but not too early prior to leaf fall to avoid excessive nitrogen being translocated into the tree.
- collection and destruction of leaf litter and fallen fruit. Fallen leaves and

fruit are swept into the middle of the row and mulched with a flail mower. Mulching can be combined with a ground application of urea.

- pruning to increase air flow for quicker canopy drying time and to improve spray penetration.

These techniques alone will not control apple scab and should be used with other measures.

Fungicides

Chemical control aims to prevent primary infections early in the season. Without primary infections, no subsequent secondary infections can prolong the cycle of disease over summer. Without summer spores from secondary infections there is little chance of a build-up of ascospores in fallen leaves during winter.

An effective control program relies on using protectant (pre-infection) fungicides, post-infection fungicides or a combination of both. Spray programs start at the green tip stage to correspond with the early release of the ascospores from the

previous season's carryover. Spraying should continue if weather conditions are suitable for infection (Table 2).

Some active ingredients registered for control of apple scab are also registered for control of powdery mildew. A list of chemical options for controlling apple scab pre and post infection can be found within the *Pome and summer fruit orchard spray guide 2014–15*. The chemical resistance strategy in place for this disease is available from the CropLife Australia website. 🍏

MORE INFORMATION ►

Call Susie Murphy White, Project Manager — Pomewest, phone (08) 9777 0151 or email susan.murphy-white@agric.wa.gov.au

- www.agric.wa.gov.au/pome-fruit/managing-apple-scab-western-australia
- www.agric.wa.gov.au/pome-fruit/pome-and-summer-fruit-orchard-spray-guide-western-australia-2014-15

Dormancy breakers in low chill years

BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE¹, JOHN SUTTON² AND LISA STARKIE²
¹ POMEWEST MANJIMUP
² DPIRD MANJIMUP

A Pomewest funded trial was set up in 2016 to test the effect of dormancy breaking sprays in a low chill environment.

The use of dormancy breaking sprays is a potential adaptation for the apple and pear industry to warmer years as they have been shown to stimulate earlier, more homogenous bud burst and flowering in a number of crops grown in mild climates worldwide.

The two national climate change projects undertaken for the pome fruit industry have highlighted that Western Australia is vulnerable to low winter chill and strategies to manage winter chill are going to be an important part of the pome fruit industry.

The trial set out to compare three dormancy breaking products; Dormex[®] (Cyanamide), Waiken[®] (Methyl esters of fatty acids) and Erger[®] (Decanol alkoxyate fertiliser adjuvant) on four apple cultivars (Cripps Pink, Granny Smith, Fuji and Cripps Red). Two methods of timing the application of dormancy breakers were used; the first treatment applied after receiving 70% of the average winter chill (49 chill portions) and second timing at 35 days before expected bud burst (BEBB). Label rates were used on all products.

All four cultivars (Cripps Pink, Granny Smith, Fuji and Cripps Red) were sprayed after receiving 57 chill portions on 2 August 2016 this was 75% of the actual chill portions received at Manjimup. In 2016 Manjimup accumulated 76 chill portions from 1 March to 31 August which was one of the highest chill accumulating years (Figure 1).



FIGURE 1 Winter chill accumulation for Manjimup 1st March to 31st August 2016

To determine the 35 days BEBB historical flowering records and chill accumulation records were used to predict the timing for all cultivars.

The predicted chill accumulation resulted in the following treatment timing; Cripps Pink was sprayed at 21 days, Fuji 28 days, Granny Smith 32 days and Cripps Red 38 days before actual green tip (Table 1).

What did we see in the orchard during spring?

From the 1st September through to November 32 trees of each cultivar (four trees per treatment at both timings) were monitored three times a week, green tips counted until 5% of the tree was in green

tip, then first flower recorded and lastly number of flowers counted until full bloom (80% flowering) was reached. No toxicity was observed in any trees treated with dormancy breakers.

Green tip was observed early (1st September) in Dormex[®] treated trees in Cripps Pink at the 70% timing. All trees treated with Dormex[®] except the Cripps Pink 35 days BEBB and Fuji days 35 BEBB reached green tip first. The dormancy breakers applied at the 70% timing were sprayed at 43 days before green tip for Cripps Pink, Fuji 57 days and Granny Smith 45 days. Green tip was delayed in the trees treated with Waiken[®] at 35 days BEBB, Cripps Pink and Fuji trees were sprayed at 21 days and 28 days respectively.

TABLE 1 Timing of dormancy-breaking spray application on Cripps Red, Cripps Pink, Fuji and Granny Smith

	Actual spray date	Green tip date	Spray timing (days before green tip)	Chill portions @ spraying
Cripps Red 70%	2/08/2016	9/09/2016	38	57 (75%)
Cripps Pink 70%	2/08/2016	14/09/2016	43	57 (75%)
Fuji 70%	2/08/2016	28/09/2016	57	57 (75%)
Granny Smith 70%	2/08/2016	16/09/2016	45	57 (75%)
Cripps Red 35 BEBB	2/08/2016	9/09/2016	38	57 (75%)
Cripps Pink 35 BEBB	24/08/2016	14/09/2016	21	71 (93%)
Fuji 35 BEBB	24/08/2016	21/09/2016	28	71 (93%)
Granny Smith 35 BEBB	18/08/2016	19/09/2016	32	64 (84%)

Flowering was compacted to 7 days from 18 days in the Cripps Pink 35 days BEBB, Granny Smith 70% and 8 days Cripps Pink 70% and Fuji 70% timing trees treated with Dormex®. Flowering was extended in Fuji 70% sprayed at 57 days before green tip treated with Erger® and all treatments for the Fuji 35 days BEBB.

Difficulty in predicting the season can mean sometimes product could be applied too late as not enough chill has been received and instead of advancing green tip it is delayed. As expected, Waiken® set back green tip when applied at 20 days BEBB, as seen in the Cripps Pink 35 days BEBB sprayed at 21 days before green tip and Fuji 35 days BEBB sprayed at 28 days before green tip. But when applied at 35-50 days BEBB green tip was advanced as seen in all cultivars treated at the 70% timing. However the Dormex® response was always earlier than the Waiken® treatments.

What effect was observed on fruit set?

The Fuji trees treated with Waiken® 70% had the highest fruit set with 95% of the flower clusters setting fruit (Figure 2). The overall fruit set in the Waiken® trees was higher than the Dormex® followed by Erger® and the trees treated at 70% had a better fruit set than the trees treated at 35 days BEBB. Fruit set was not impacted by the compaction of the flowering period for cultivars treated at 70% timing. The Cripps Pink 35 days BEBB showed a reduced fruit set and this treatment also had a compacted flowering.

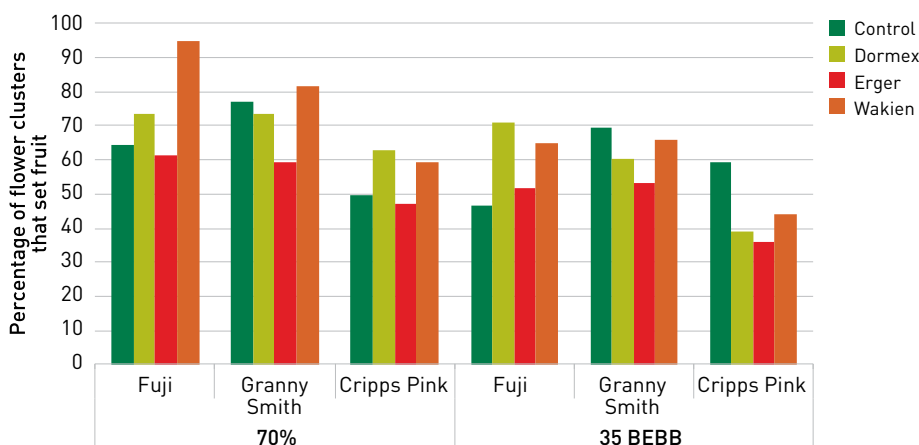


FIGURE 2 Fruit set for all cultivars across all treatments applied after reaching 70% of average winter chill and 35 days BEBB

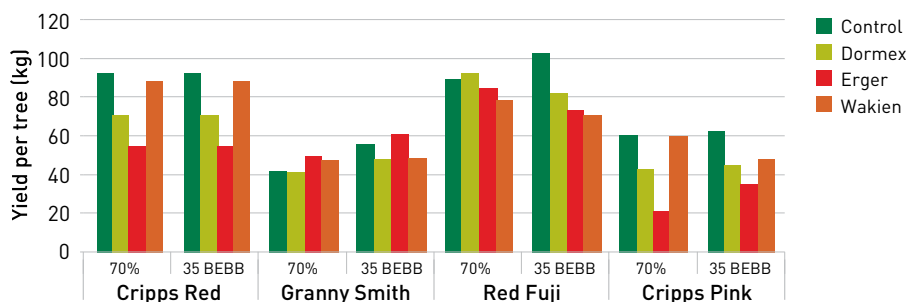


FIGURE 3 Estimated yield using number of fruit per tree and average fruit weight of a sample of 30



FIGURE 4 Red Fuji trees on 19 October 2016 treated with dormancy breakers sprays 35 days before expected bud burst

- a Control treatment — full bloom 21 Oct
- b Dormex treatment — end petal fall
- c Erger treatment — 50% flowering
- d Waiken treatment — first flowers

Did the dormancy breakers effect yield and variability of maturity at harvest?

There was no measurable reduction in the variability of fruit maturity at harvest with any of the sprays (assessed by looking at colour and SPI), despite the effect on compaction of flowering. There were no differences in harvest timing or variability of maturity at harvest between treatments. Estimated yields were not impacted by any of the dormancy-breaking sprays on most

treatments. But maybe Erger® treated Cripps Pink trees at both timings did result in lower yields (Figure 3).

A very obvious response was observed for flowering in the field after the application of Dormex® with compacted flowering seen in all cultivars except Fuji treated with Dormex® at 70% timing. Although, fruit set in the Waiken® treated trees performed better resulting in a better yield in this trial.

In 2016 Manjimup received the most chill it had in a long time tracking along the coolest 10% of years, most old timers said winter was like the old days cold and wet. This is in contrast to 2017, where we are just below the warmest 10% of years. Our trial did not test a low chill year for Manjimup. But from our results we can conclude that dormancy breaking sprays can compact flowering making the progression from green tip through to full bloom more homogenous, resulting in a shorter flowering time making management in the orchard at flowering easier.

For the 2016-17 season estimating the application timing of dormancy breakers was more effective in advancing green tip and compacting flowering after receiving 75% (57) of the chill portions.

MORE INFORMATION ►

Call Susie Murphy White, Project Manager — Pomewest, phone (08) 9777 0151 or email susan.murphy-white@agric.wa.gov.au.

Expression of interest for New Zealand Study Tour



BY SUSIE MURPHY WHITE
PROJECT MANAGER,
POMEWEST

West Australian Pome fruit growers and orchard managers are invited to submit an expression of interest to attend a study tour to New Zealand for late January 2018.



**Register
your
interest!**

In four years New Zealand's apple industry grew from producing 16 million cartons in 2012 to 19.5 million cartons in 2016 and an expected 21.5 million cartons this year worth \$800 million NZD. New Zealand is making progress to meet the government's export goal of \$1 billion NZD by 2020. They are growing premium produce to sell at premium prices. New Zealand is known for taking risks developing and marketing new varieties. Gala and Braeburn were developed in New Zealand decades ago but the country remains on the cutting edge with development of many club varieties such as Dazzle™, JAZZ™, Envy™, Rockit® and Smitten®.

The study tour would involve visiting leading New Zealand pome fruit orchards in the Hawkes Bay and Nelson growing regions hosted by AgFirst Horticulture Consultants Steve Spark and Ross Wilson.

Hawkes Bay in the North Island is home to most of New Zealand's apple production. Two days will be spent visiting modern orchard systems, new varieties, and integration of new technologies. A visit to the Prevar Research Centre in Hawkes Bay to see the selection process involved in the development of new varieties such as Sweetie™, Smitten®, Rock it® and Piqa® brand interspecific pears. Followed by a visit to Plant & Food NZ Hawkes Bay research centre to see the Orchards of the Future planting systems trial coming into its 4th Leaf.

The next two days will be spent in the Nelson region of the South Island visiting orchards in Moteuka and Richmond. Orchardist will have the chance to meet leading local orchardists and who will be able to exchange ideas with the group.

Participants of the study tour will gain an understanding of the New Zealand pip fruit industry; tree architecture and type of plantings, varieties of pome fruit grown, most common orchard practices, through to the marketing/exporting of the fruit.

The study tour is timed to see fruit on the trees in New Zealand as close to the Gala harvest as possible but still only have five days away from the orchard and to be back into WA ready for the Gala harvest at home.

Participants pay the cost of participating this includes airfares, accommodation and some meals, necessary for the trip. Organization and delivery of this study tour is funded by Pomewest.

There are five young grower scholarships of \$1,000 each to be awarded to eligible pomefruit growers and orchard managers to reduce the cost of participating to \$1,250.

MORE INFORMATION ►

Please register your interest with Susie Murphy White:
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