

Canopy Development

MATURE TREES

Introduction

This information sheet is a guide to the use of the plant growth regulator gibberellins A-3 (Ga-3) in the product Growth™ to enhance extension growth in apple trees.

Growth™ applied to the meristem (growing tip) of a branch promotes apical growth, giving a longer stronger period of shoot extension.

This may be used to revitalise stunted blocks that refused to grow or increase growth rates of growth in developing blocks.

The use of Growth™ will not overcome limiting factors such as nutritional issues or poor plant health.

Growth™ – Shoot Extension

Growth™ will stimulate the growing tips of shoot initials to grow into longer more flexible branches.

Application Timing:

Application may start at the initiation of shoot growth in late September, early October.

Later applications until hardening off will give results, but later applications will be less effective. Repeat applications at 14-21 day intervals applied 4 to 6 times will give best results. Adjust the number of applications to limit or increase the response.

Rates: 1 litre of Growth™ in 100L of water. Backpack sprayer 200ml of Growth™ in 20L water.

Surfactants: Non-ionic, Spray Aid, Buffering agent if required (Buff-It).

Coverage: Has a localised effect. Good wetting will enhance result.

Warnings:

- May induce increased numbers of seedless fruit set when applied over flowering.
- May result in a more elongated fruit shape when applied during fruit development.
- Will result in reduced return bloom in the season following application. Varieties sensitive to biennial bearing will respond more strongly. Increasing the number of applications will enhance this affect.

General Considerations

Application – activity is enhanced by application during warmer weather (Daily maximum 20°C or greater on the day of application and the day following), good coverage, good wetting water rates, best applied early in the day to allow slower drying and better absorption and spray solutions that are slightly acidic (target pH 4.5 - 5.5).

Varieties – variety response will vary, some varieties are less responsive than others.

Other considerations: young tree development will be greatly limited by water availability, nutrition, poor root development, replant disease, insect or fungal disease. Ensure all aspects of tree health and nutrition are well maintained to obtain best results. Feathering will not occur unless trees are actively growing.



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