

Meteor[®]

SECONDARY THINNING AGENT FOR APPLES

METEOR IS A SECONDARY THINNING AGENT FOR APPLES

Extensively tested under New Zealand conditions over the last five seasons, Meteor thins by inhibiting the trees ability to photosynthesise resulting in shedding of weaker fruitlets.

TIMING

- Meteor will thin fruitlets between 6-20mm.
- Best results are achieved when applied to King fruitlets between 10-16mm.
- Apply only one application per season (in conjunction with Spray Aid™) – multiple applications may result in over thinning.
- Do not tank mix with other thinning agents, interactions are not yet well understood.

WEATHER

- Meteor is less temperature sensitive than other thinners such as BAPSoL™.
- Best results will be obtained when applied under good drying conditions on a warm day.
- Cloudy weather on the day of application and the days after will enhance the thinning effect of Meteor. Do not apply the higher label rates if aggressive thinning is not desired under these conditions.
- Application under hail nets may also enhance thinning results.
- Do not reapply if rain occurs after application, the product is rapidly absorbed and over thinning may occur.
- Avoid application under cold slow drying conditions.

RATE

- 25-37g/100L water.
- Low rate (25g) = 2 x 250g sachets per 2000L spray tank.
- High rate (37g) = 3 x 250g sachets per 2000L spray tank.
- The label is written for dilute water rate application for the size of the canopy at the time of application.
- Apply sufficient water to wet the entire canopy.
- Do not apply past the point of drip.
- Good coverage is essential to obtain an even result.
- We recommend that the lower label rate is used to gain experience with the product. Increasing rates of Meteor will significantly increase thinning results.
- In many of our New Zealand trials the low rate of Meteor provided similar efficacy to tank mix combinations of BAPSoL™ and Carbaryl.
- DO NOT apply higher label rates on varieties or blocks / areas with history of issues with fruit retention, or those that are easy to thin, or have a history of over thinning responses to other thinning products.

SURFACTANT

- Meteor should always be applied with the surfactant Spray Aid™ at 125-250ml per 100L water to obtain desired results.
- Absorption into the leaf is critical to the products activity.
- If spray water is Alkaline (pH 7 plus) we recommend Lok-it™ to maintain product efficacy.
- We do not support the use of other surfactants with Meteor.

VARIETIES

- May be used on all varieties. Take care on easily thinned varieties as over thinning can occur.
- DO NOT use on areas with history of poor or variable fruit set or retention, nor on trees with poor tree health or under stress e.g. frost damage, water stress, as over thinning may occur.
- Multiple applications may result in over thinning.
- Young orchards - Meteor is an aggressive thinning agent and may over thin immature blocks.

RESULTS

- Fruitlet drop may begin 10-12 days after application, and continue for approximately 3 weeks post application.
- Fruitlet drop is generally 7-10 days earlier than other secondary thinners such as BAPSoL.
- Best results are observed on heavy bloom trees.






RETURN BLOOM

- Meteor thinning effects are neutral in respect to return bloom the following season.
- On that basis it's important to maintain a thinning regime with primary thinning products such as Ethin™, NAA 100™ and Thin-It™. Alternatively BAPSoL™ as a secondary thinner should be used instead of Meteor in very biannual situations.



WITHHOLDING PERIOD

- Apples: Up to 30 days after full bloom.
- Used as per label instructions and with the recommended surfactant (Spray-Aid), no residues should be detectable at harvest.



IPM

- Meteor is not an insecticide. Testing in New Zealand has demonstrated it has no impact on beneficial insects, including Aphelinus mali (Woolly Apple aphid predator).



WORKER RE-ENTRY

- A minimum re-entry interval for this substance is set at 4 days after the end of the application of the substance. The person in charge of the application area must ensure that no person works in contact with the trees treated with the substance until the end of the 4 day re-entry interval
- Despite the point immediately above, this re-entry interval may be reduced to 1 day after the end of the application if gloves are worn by workers intending to be in contact with the treated trees



OFF TARGET APPLICATION

- Other crops may be sensitive to the chemistry including stone fruit and drift may cause phytotoxicity.
- Meteor shall be applied via ground-based methods only
- EPA regulations require a buffer zone of 15m between the application area and any downwind area containing non-target plants must be observed when applying this substance.
- We recommend care is taken not to apply under windy conditions that may result in drift.



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