

ACHIEVE UNIFORM HARVEST IN APPLE PRODUCTION



ReTain® Plant Growth Regulator Soluble Powder Allows Growers to Control Fruit Maturation Prior to Harvest

Ensuring optimal harvest timing is critical to a grower's success. There are several risks associated with harvesting too early or too late—including inadequate fruit size, poor color, lack of taste and increased fruit drop.

"If the fruit is harvested too early, it's going to be tart, green and lacking in flavor. Harvesting too late can mean a loss of firmness and acidity, even appearing greasy and cracking in some," said Dr. Duane Greene, pomology professor at the University of Massachusetts. "It becomes fruit that is not really salvageable, and I think you can significantly discourage return customers that way."

Maximize Fruit Quality with Proper ReTain Timing

For more than two decades, *ReTain* has been the foundation of a successful harvest management and post-harvest quality program in apples. *ReTain* slows the fruit's maturation and ripening processes, providing growers with both a flexible harvest management period and uniform quality. *ReTain* has a wide application window from 7 to 28 days before expected harvest.

For optimal results on color sensitive varieties including target color development, firm fruit flesh and ideal fruit size, apply *ReTain* 7–14 days before anticipated harvest when fruit color has developed.

Growers have found that delaying the application until closer to expected harvest provides adequate time for color maturity while still gaining the quality and harvest benefits of *ReTain*. This is especially important for multi-pick, hard-to-color varieties such as Honeycrisp and some low-color Galas.



Figure 1 demonstrates a Honeycrisp color evaluation on September 14, five days after a single application of *ReTain* with no impact on color.

In addition to flexible use timing and maintaining late-season quality, *ReTain* also lengthens the fruit's shelf life. With a delayed application of *ReTain*, growers can ensure uniform quality and good condition going into storage.

"*ReTain* is a proven, easy-to-use tool for growers looking to maximize their orchards without any special equipment," said Mark Mason, tree fruit crop marketing manager at Valent. "The flexibility and control of *ReTain* allows growers to get a better handle on harvest management in order to successfully bring their supply to market."

To learn more, visit valent.com/ReTain or contact your retailer for more information.

ReTain®
PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR



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