

IMPROVE HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN APPLE PRODUCTION

New Use Pattern Extends Harvest Window Even Further

Millions of bushels of apples are produced each year, challenging growers to face a series of obstacles throughout the season—including harvest management. Variables such as labor shortage, logistics and weather can have a significant impact on a grower’s harvest.

An early harvest can lead to inadequate fruit size, poor coloring or shrinking, while a late harvest can include fruit drop, shorter shelf life or fruit softening. In order to produce more marketable fruit, it’s critical to implement a quality harvest management program for an orchard.

Run Harvest on Your Schedule with ReTain® Plant Growth Regulator Soluble Powder

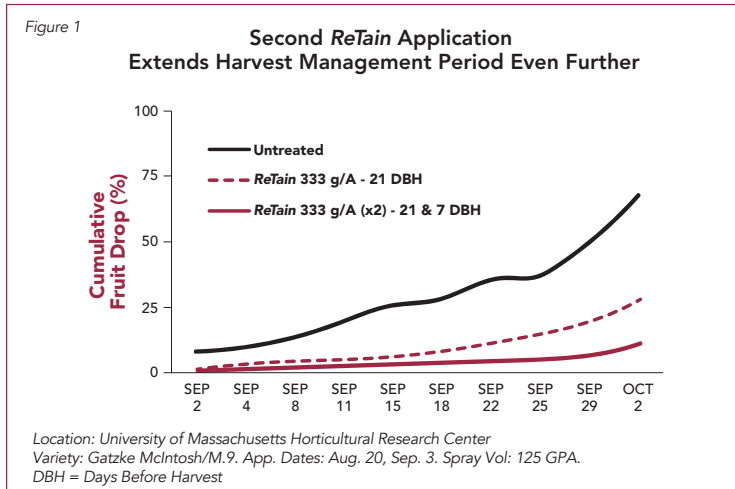
ReTain now allows growers to extend their harvest management period even further with a second application of ReTain up to seven days prior to anticipated harvest. ReTain works by inhibiting ethylene, thus delaying the maturation and ripening processes.

With no special equipment required, the second application of ReTain increases the harvest window by up to four weeks, helping growers run harvest on their schedule while still maximizing quality.

Figure 1, a trial from the University of Massachusetts, compares a single and double application of ReTain. The double application allows for longer fruit retention well past the normal harvest window and more flexibility in managing harvest crews.

The first application of ReTain is typically made around 21 to 28 days before anticipated harvest to begin to control ethylene production and set the stage for a potential second application. Growers have the flexibility to decide if a second application is necessary, depending on fruit quality, or labor and market conditions. If so, the second application of ReTain can be made all the way up to seven days before harvest.

“ReTain is backed by more than 20 years of consistent use, and this new extended use gives growers even further reliability to



ensure optimal harvest timing,” said Mark Mason, tree fruit crop manager at Valent.

Greater Uniformity in Maturity Across All Varieties

Along with flexible use timing, ReTain reduces pre-harvest fruit drop and maintains late-season fruit quality. These added benefits are especially helpful for certain varieties that are prone to fruit drop, such as Honeycrisp.

Even though every apple on the tree doesn’t mature at the same time, ReTain enables growers to control the fruit maturity and even out the varieties before harvest. This helps ensure the best fruit going into storage.

“There’s nothing like ReTain out there as far as I’m concerned. The added benefit of delayed harvest is terrific,” said Dr. Duane Greene, pomology professor at the University of Massachusetts. “It will certainly help growers a great deal as far as harvest management, fruit quality at harvest and product storage.”

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



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