

SUMITOMO ReTain®

Tony Tricollo
Fruit grower
Jarrahdale WA



MORE FLEXIBLE FRUIT PICKING AND HARVEST MANAGEMENT WITH ReTain

Tony Tricollo, fruit grower of Jarrahdale, some 20 km east of Rockingham WA, produces apples and nectarines in about a 50/50 split. The apples include Royal Gala Galaxy, Sundowners and the current most popular variety, Pink Ladies. He uses ReTain on both types of fruit for several reasons:

'Generally it helps us get better firmness in the apples and is a good management tool for the nectarines,' says Tony. 'Both crops are picked basically at the same time, so it can get pretty busy around here.'

'We sometimes need a 3-4 day breather; we apply ReTain to the nectarines so we can do a first pick on the Galas; that way it all goes smoothly.'

'We also find it helps with the maturity side of things, keeping it under control. We don't get too much over-ripe fruit here; that cuts down wastage a lot.'

'As it happens we use ReTain more on the nectarines than the apples, believe it or not. It's a very good management tool.'

'If you're running a lot of one variety, which sometimes we do, staffing can be a bit of an issue, especially around Christmas.'

'I find that if we put ReTain on the nectarines, we get a grace period of 5-6 days – which gives us a bit more room to move – with greater control over our picking.'

'There's a storage benefit too. Nectarines sprayed with ReTain and put in the cool store for 3-4 weeks seem to hold up better than those that haven't been treated. It seems to somehow stop the fruit from rotting.'

'We generally use ReTain 4 weeks prior to harvest, sometimes a couple of weeks, depending on what we're trying to do.'

'We've also found that when we treat the apples with ReTain, they come out of the store that little bit firmer. You just need to be a bit careful with it. If you apply it 28 days before harvest in a hard-to-colour year, you mightn't get as much colour as you want... seems to be the price you pay for firmness. So we sometimes leave the ReTain right up to 10 days before picking to get maximum fruit colour.'

'We know it doesn't really help much with the first pick so we try and sell that one pretty quickly. Then we try and take advantage of the second or third pick that have had the benefit of the ReTain.'

'As far as increased size goes, it's more prominent in the nectarines than the apples. Apples don't put on much size after they start colouring.'

'With nectarines, because you have a 4-5 day window, you can probably pick up another 2 or 3 millimetres with delayed harvesting thanks to ReTain. That couple of days can make a real difference in getting a better price.'

'The stone fruit blows up naturally anyway – and at the last moment. If you can hold them around maturity time that's when they size up the most. You go back three days after the first pick and anything left behind seems to come up, even more so with ReTain.'

'You can also hold the fruit a bit longer when you're selling, but we don't do that a lot.'

'Overall, we have noticed a difference since we started using ReTain. We're going to continue with it and I'd certainly recommend it.'

Sumitomo ReTain is a natural plant growth regulator for apples and stone fruit (except cherries). It can improve harvest management, fruit quality and enhance storage potential.

ReTain helps orchardists time their harvests to increase fruit size, firmness while improving storage ability. This makes for greater profitability by consistently helping produce fruit that meets market demand for quality, colour and finish.

The active ingredient in ReTain is aminoethoxyvinylglycine (AVG), a naturally occurring fermentation product that blocks ethylene production in plants. Ethylene affects plant processes such as fruit maturation, ripening and fruit drop.

ReTain can be used in apples and stone fruit pre-harvest to suppress ethylene biosynthesis in order to manage the timing of ripening, increase fruit size and firmness and improve storage potential.



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