

SUMITOMO ReTain®

Mark Mobilio
Agricultural Company of Australia
Wood Wood Vic



ReTain BOOSTS STONE FRUIT HARVEST 28%

Mark Mobilio of the Agricultural Company of Australia at Wood Wood (near Swan Hill) was extra impressed with the results he got from Sumitomo's plant growth regulator, ReTain.

'I can honestly tell you, if we hadn't used ReTain this year, we would have had pretty crook results,' says Mark. 'We applied it to about five blocks of stone fruit and left two untreated. The difference was chalk and cheese.'

'That gave us an 88%-90% packout from the blocks where we used ReTain; from the two where we didn't, we were lucky to get 57%. Definitely a great result, particularly with the humid sort of weather and congested harvest dates we've had this year.'

'We've been able to get bigger sizes too, across our nectarines, peaches and plums. Colouring is better as well, because we were able to hang the fruit a bit longer. Makes a huge difference when you're shipping over 2,000 tonnes a year.'

'We regard ReTain as a dual treatment, getting us extra size and better colour in clean clear fruit. And that's despite the really humid weather we've been going through. A lot of fruit just doesn't survive it. That was evident from the blocks we treated with Retain – and the ones we didn't.'

'ReTain helps keep the fruit on the tree a bit longer by holding back its maturity. It delays the harvest for those vital extra days.'

'Our whole plan is to get control within that 7-14 day period before harvest. That's the most important and hardest thing to do: to get the right timing for applying the ReTain.'

'We have to be really mindful of the fruits' phenological stages and our harvest history so we can determine the 7-14 day window, getting into the right part of the lifecycle while allowing for the weather as well.'

'Generally we aim to apply ReTain at about 10 days before harvest date. We mix for 1,200 litres a hectare so we get the coverage we want.'

'We apply it in the early morning when the drying is a bit slower; that's given us the best results.'

Asked about fruit sizing, Mark said ReTain made a noticeable difference:

'Say a fruit sizes a mil a day. If we can prevent it maturing for another three days and get another three mils out of it, we get to pick a 60 mil fruit instead of a 57 mil one.'

'To us that is the difference between \$7 a kilo and \$3 a kilo; it's a good product if you can get that size along with evenness of the pit. It's a significant benefit when you've got a lot of fruit on.'

'ReTain lets us get through the paddock at the rate we want. When you're talking 5,700 trees of one variety, 5,000 of another and 2,500 of another – all coming in at the same time, it's very hard to get through it all without the right tools. ReTain has been a major help to us.'

'We've found that ReTain helps us get better quality too. It keeps working, even in heavy rain, seeming to reactivate itself, helping us produce firmer fruit.'

'Normally when you get the kind of rain we've had here, the fruit goes to nothing because it gets marked, along with bleaching and inking. ReTain helps solve that problem.'

'Our 88% packout means we get very little wastage – and the fruit is firmer, with better colour. Our current packout is 28% better than if we hadn't used it.'

'We know from experience that ReTain works. You can see the results. The thing to be aware of is that you do need to understand the product to get the full benefit. It took us a couple of seasons to really get the hang of it and maximise our results.'

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.



SUMITOMO CHEMICAL

SUMITOMO CHEMICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
www.sumitomo-chem.com.au

ReTain® is a registered trademark of Valent BioSciences Corporation, Libertyville, IL, USA.