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Calcium

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR YOUR CROP

Testimonial from Brad Fankhauser General Manager Fankhauser Apples

Background

The owners of Fankhauser Apples, Liz and Glynn Fankhauser, are 4th generation orchardists. With their son Brad as General Manager, his wife Darlene as Office Manager, and his sister Lauren working in the orchard and packing shed, they grow around 2000 tonnes of apples each year.

'We grow nine different varieties of apples starting with Gala (including our very own 'Alvina Gala*') that are harvested mid to late February, Jonathan, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Granny Smith, Pink Lady and Yello*, and have recently started growing Jazz* and Smitten* under licence for Montague Fresh.'

Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake cuts down bitter pit on vulnerable trees

'Some varieties of apple such as Jazz are more susceptible to bitter pit. And young trees are more at risk. So, if you have young Jazz trees, you can lose up to 15–20% of your crop to bitter pit without a treatment plan.'

The Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake pretty much eliminates the bitter pit problem. We just give these varieties an extra treatment and we can be confident we have the situation under control.'

Overall tree health is much improved

'The Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake provides the trace elements as well as the calcium and magnesium. You can tell it's working. The trees look better overall. They put out nice deep green leaves. It's all very healthy.'

A solution for stressed trees in our wet springs

'In our wet springs, the trees can't take up nutrients well from the soil. Applying the Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake gives them the nutrients they need. The trees look better, glossier and they put on new spring growth.'

"The best of the bunch by a long shot"

'There are lots of foliar sprays around but from our experience, Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake is the best of the bunch by a long shot. The trees respond really well. You can see the difference.'

To other growers, I'd say ...

'It's a good product. I'd like to think everyone is using it. I think you're mad if you're not using it. There aren't any drawbacks. I'll definitely keep using it.'

The trees look happy with Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake

'We've tried other foliar sprays, but we just have better tree health with Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake. It's hard to explain; the trees just look happier after you spray them. The next couple of weeks, they just look happy again.'

You get an even coverage

'Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake goes on fairly easily. There's no clogging of the sprayer and you get a nice even coverage of the leaves and fruit. The stickers and surfactants seem to do the job. The product gets absorbed over a few days. The trees, well, they look like nice, vibrant, healthy trees after you spray.'

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“A couple of times a year, I apply the Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake just to keep the bitter pit risk in check and help with the tree health in general. Depending on variety, and depending on the year, we do at least two to three treatments throughout the growing season. It’s always a good investment.”

Providing nutrients fast when the fruit is developing

“We apply the Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake just as the tree is going through its cell division, around late November. The tree is working hard. Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake has all the elements and nutrients the tree needs to support it through this stage. Within a few days, you can tell the trees are flourishing.”

Meeting the market with bigger apples

“For some varieties, the premium is at the big end of the fruit. When the Yello goes to market, the bigger the fruit, the better. There’s no apple too big. But the larger the fruit, the more likely it will have a calcium deficiency and suffer from bitter pit.

It’s a challenge. We need to boost the calcium uptake for the larger fruit. Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake lets us do this. We just apply it more often. We always get at least three treatments on the Yello.”

We know our program is working because ...

“The benefits are definitely there. Tree health is number one. And then I’d say having a really good product at the end of the season is proof in the pudding. The fruit stores well, it eats well, and it usually keeps well. The customers are pretty happy. They keep coming back.”

Extra harvest protection

“We make sure we get another Wuxal Calcium Xtra Uptake treatment on a couple of weeks before harvest. It adds extra protection against bitter pit during storage. It’s important that our fruit stores well so we can sell it when the price is good. We can store them for 10 to 11 months with next to no issues at all.”



The information provided herein may include extracts from the product label and does not constitute the complete directions for use. READ THE PRODUCT LABEL THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPENING OR USING WUXAL CALCIUM XTRA UPTAKE

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