

Biomim Copper Trail - Hastings New Zealand

Defoliation of fruit trees in New Zealand has traditionally been attained by the use of products such as Copper Oxichloride and Copper sulfate

Biomim Copper a systemic copper has been used in Australia on Stonefruit for defoliation and has been found to be very successful, growers in the Hastings region of New Zealand decided they would like to try Biomim Copper to see its affects for defoliation on a particularly difficult variety (MayGlo)

A trial was set up on G Hope property on Mayglow variety 3 year old trees. Phoscare in conjunction with Biomim Copper has also been shown to be very effective.

4 x 3-year-old trees were selected at the start of row 3 out of 4 rows of Mayglow. The trees were treated in the following manner with the remainder of the crop being the control.

TREE ONE

1 st Application: -	Phoscare 1.5 ml / L	4.5 ml / 3 applied 2/5/02
2 nd Application: -	Biomim Copper 1.5 grams / L	4.5grams / 3 L applied 5/5/02

TREE TWO

1 st Application: -	Biomim Copper 1.5 Grams / L	4.5 / 3 L applied 5/5/02
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TREE THREE

1 st Application: -	Biomim Copper 2 grams / L	6 grams / 3 L applied 5/5/02
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TREE FOUR

1 st Application: -	Phoscare 1 ml / L	3 ml / 3 L applied 2/5/02
2 nd Application: -	Biomim Copper 1 gram / L	3 grams applied 5/5/02

On the third day after application trees were checked - no visual results.

Trees were left, nine days after application the trees were monitored with significant visual results.

The Biomim Copper alone had given the most effective results; TREE THREE treated with 2 grams / L had the best results slightly more defoliation had occurred than on TREE TWO. Leaf count revealed that 80% of branches had total 100% defoliation the remaining branches had approximately 93% of leaf defoliation. Significant numbers of green leaves were scattered under tree canopy compared with control orchard where only few yellowing leaves were present on ground.

Tree One and Four Phoscare & Biomim Copper also had significant defoliation approximately 70 % however not as prominent as the Biomim Copper alone. Our nutritionists feel that the trees may have been in need of Phosphorous & Potassium thereby an initial utilization of the highly systemic Phoscare for the tree health, may have delayed defoliation slightly.

Rate: - of 1.5 – 2 Kg Ha of Biomim Copper has shown to be effective. Lower rates of 1 kg may also prove positive.

NB: Please ensure that trees are going into dormancy and root flush stopped before Biomim Copper is applied.

NB: The pH of the water will play an important role.

Photographs were taken before and after defoliation

