

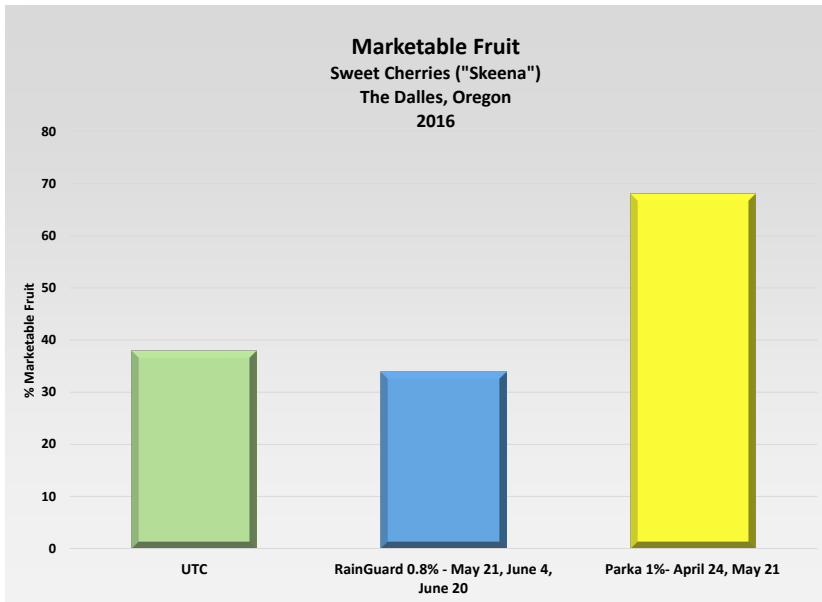


Improves Marketable Fruit Yields in Sweet Cherries (Skeena)

EVALUATION OF PARKA™ FOR CHERRY CRACKING QUALITY

The product, Parka™ (a proprietary blend of phospholipids in a cellulosic matrix, Cultiva LLC., Las Vegas, NV) was evaluated for cherry cracking in a commercial cherry orchard of 'Skeena' outside The Dalles, OR. Trees used were mature, bearing and on a multiple leader system. The experiment was arranged in a randomized, block design with 3 replications and treatments applied to single tree plots. The Commercial standard, Raingard® (food-grade fatty acids and vegetable-based esters, Valent Biosciences Corporation, Libertyville, IL) was also used in the rain cracking trial.

Treatments of Parka (1% v/v rate) were applied to trees during early morning on April 24, and May 21. Raingard (0.8% v/v) was applied three times on April 24, May 21 and again on June 4. Treatment suspensions were sprayed to coverage with a powered backpack sprayer equipped with a mist blower under calm conditions. The evening of June 17, ~0.5" of rain fell on the orchard, a helicopter flew the block to blow dry trees/fruit the following morning. The morning of June 23, 300 fruit were sampled from each treatment tree using a standardized sampling method for uniformity across plots. Samples were sorted in-field.



The rain cracking data was generated by evaluating all fruit based on cracked fruit, clean fruit and marketability of fruit per treatment, but with emphasis on marketability which includes slight stem bowl cracks that will pass commercial grade.

Parka showed excellent efficacy, relative to the control and Raingard, when treatments were applied at the first and second timings (see Chart). Early applications of Parka products appear to build upon one another and sufficient layers will help cope with rapidly expanding fruit.

Technical Bulletin is based on report from D.R. Hubbard, R & D Specialist Genesis Agri Products drewh@gslong.com

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