

Increasing Branching of Newly Planted Apple Trees

Jon Clements

Extension Educator, University of Massachusetts

In 2013, Valent BioSciences expanded the Maxcel™ label to include branching of nursery stock and young trees (Figure 1). In 2014, the 5,000 ppm rate was used in white latex indoor paint on just-planted 1/4 inch diameter “whip” Honeycrisp/B.9 apple trees at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. The paint was applied using a foam brush to




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maxcel™ INCREASING BRANCHING IN NURSERY STOCK AND YOUNG TREES			
LATEX APPLICATION			
Use	Application rate	Product / acre	Application method and timing
Apples (Nursery and Young Orchard) For increasing lateral bud break and shoot growth, improve branch angles, and provide a better tree framework for early cropping.	5,000 to 7,500 ppm (0.2-0.53 pint Maxcel per pint of latex paint)	Do not apply more than 320 oz of Maxcel (20 pints) per acre per season	Apply in the spring when terminal buds begin to swell but before shoots emerge. At the point where branching is desired, uniformly apply the Maxcel – latex paint mixture with a brush or sponge to cover the bark surface thoroughly. Apply only to one year old wood.

Figure 1. The Maxcel label noting its use to enhance branching.

the area where branching was desired after the buds had started to swell but just before bud break. By mid-June, the results were favorable; it appears the latex application was very effective at breaking branches (Figure 2) compared to the untreated trees (Figure 3). This type of Maxcel application is recommended before bud-break on pencil-diameter, one-year-old wood to promote branching.



Figure 2. Honeycrisp/B.9 tree treated at bud swell with 5,000 ppm Maxcel in white indoor latex paint.



Figure 3. Honeycrisp/B.9 tree not treated (control) but planted and photographed at the same time as the tree in Figure 2.

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