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Winter dormant treatment for control of apple mildew

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Recommended Citation

Wood, P M. (1988), *Winter dormant treatment for control of apple mildew*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Report.

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88MA51, 88MA50, 88BY32: Winter-dormant treatment for control of apple mildew.

The fungicide Topas (penconazole) was applied to run-off at 25 ml per 100 L with Agridex (50 ml) to Jonathon apple trees at full dormancy at three sites. Mildew infection of 20 treated trees was compared with that of trees which had only a normal Topas spring spray schedule. One hundred shoots on each tree were assessed at pink bud stage and 5 leaves on each of 20 extension shafts for secondary infection. The results are shown in the table.

Table 2. The effect of winter-dormant Topas treatment on mildew levels of Jonathon apples

Treatment	Primary infection (% shoots)	Secondary infection (% leaves)	
		Dec.	Jan.
<u>88MA51</u>			
Winter dormant	4.00	8.35	6.50
No winter-dormant	9.05	22.70	8.10
<u>88MA50*</u>			
Winter dormant	5.30	12.10	10.00
No winter-dormant	4.95	13.75	16.45
<u>88BY32</u>			
Winter dormant	7.25	12.80	3.15
No winter-dormant	5.85	21.55	9.05

* Light rain commenced several hours after application of winter dormant treatment.

Comments:

1. Mildew infection levels were much lower this season than last season.
2. Reduction in primary infection by a dormant treatment was achieved at only one site, although an effect on secondary infection was evident at all sites.