



Mitron® 70WG

For use as a thinning agent in apples.

<u>Active Ingredient:</u>	700g/kg metamitron
<u>Chemical Group:</u>	Triazinone
<u>Formulation:</u>	Water dispersible granule
<u>Pack Size:</u>	1kg

Mitron 70WG is a secondary thinning agent for use in apples. Mitron should ideally be applied when king fruitlets are between 10-18mm in diameter.

Mitron 70WG was trialled last season (2015/16) on 'Brookfield Gala' in Havelock North (Eurofins, P. Melville, R. McKenzie, 150057 May 2016), to determine its efficacy as a thinning agent in apples. The treatments were applied when fruit was 12-18mm in diameter and the following conclusions were drawn from the trial:

- 1) No difference was observed in the level of fruit thinning between the Mitron® 70WG and Meteor® treatments. The percentage of total fruit drop for Mitron® 70WG (31.6%) and Meteor® (34.7%) was very similar, and both treatments were considerably higher when compared to the untreated control (18.8%).
- 2) Three types of russet were assessed at harvest: stem-end, cheek and calyx-end. The application of Mitron® 70WG and Meteor® at early fruit development did not result in an increase of russet at harvest. There was also no variation in the colour and size of the fruit in the Mitron® 70WG and Meteor® treatments when compared to the Untreated Control.
- 3) In conclusion, the study found that Mitron® 70WG provides equivalent efficacy to Meteor® when applied as a secondary fruit thinner. Mitron® 70WG was safe to use on Brookfields 'Gala' apples, with no adverse effects on fruit quality (apple russet, colour, size) when applied to trees at early fruit development.

Mean number of fruit per treatment (based on the average of 4 branches per plot) – 07 Dec 2015 (30DAA)

Treatment	Rate Per 100L	Mean number of fruit (#)	Total fruit drop (%)
UNTREATED	-	23.5 a	18.8 b
MITRON® 70WG	37 g	19.5 ab	31.6 ab
METEOR®	37 g	18.4 b	34.7 a
F Probability		0.04	0.049
LSD 5%		3.98	13.09

Numbers in columns followed by a different letter indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$), n/s indicates no statistical difference. (Eurofins – P. Melville, R. McKenzie, Report 150057, May 2016)



Growth stage at Application 1
(07-Nov-2015)



Fruit drop 21 days after treatment.



It must be stressed that caution should be exercised when using Mitron 70WG on different apple varieties and under different growth conditions. Small areas should be trialled when applying to different varieties and under different growth conditions, in order to establish an understanding of how efficacy might vary on different varieties and under different growth and weather conditions.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE – APPLES:

Mitron 70WG is a photosynthesis inhibitor for use on apples. It is applied post-blossom to thin fruit where fruit set is excessive and will lead to reduced fruit set and improved fruit quality. Many variables can affect the efficacy of Mitron 70WG, and these include the varieties involved, weather conditions, use rates, any crop stress and other thinning products which may have been sprayed on the crop. Mitron 70WG should not be applied on wet leaves (e.g. early morning or after rain). Other products such as summer oils, adjuvants and certain crop protection products can increase the thinning effect of Mitron 70WG.

Do not apply Mitron 70WG during cloudy conditions or when cloudy conditions are forecast in the days ahead. Mitron 70WG should be applied when temperatures are in the 10°C to 25°C range. Do not apply if temperatures exceed this range.

Do not apply Mitron 70WG within 5 days of a frost or when a frost is expected and do not apply to stressed apple trees or apple trees which are in poor condition as this may lead to excessive thinning.

DO NOT exceed recommended use rates or overlap sprays during application as this may result in over thinning.

ONLY ONE application should be made in a single season. Additional applications will potentially lead to excessive thinning.

Crop	Rates	Critical Comments
Apples - e.g. Fuji, Royal Gala, Jazz. (Other varieties should be tested and evaluated on a small scale first before use).	25 – 37 grams per 100L of water.	Make one application only when the king spur fruit diameter is between 10-18mm for ideal results. Only spray when there are ideal drying conditions on a sunny day and when temperatures do not exceed 25°C. Apply Mitron 70WG as a high volume spray, without applying to the point of run-off and DO NOT apply using concentrate spraying volumes. Per hectare water rates should be determined by Tree Row Volume calculations. Add Spray Aid™ adjuvant to the tankmix up to a maximum of 125ml/100L. If the water is hard or high in alkalinity then an appropriate spray buffer (e.g. Buff-it™) should be added at label rates.

IT IS AN OFFENCE for users of this product to cause residues exceeding the relevant MRL in the Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds.

Withholding Period:

Apples – Up to 30 days after full bloom.

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