

# BEE-SCENT



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN Avocados

Increasing avocado fruit set is a fundamental step to higher profits, but it is one of the most variable factors that growers must try to manage. In addition to problems caused by insects and diseases, a primary obstacle is insufficient bee foraging. Bad weather, low bee numbers and many other factors can significantly reduce pollination and total yield.

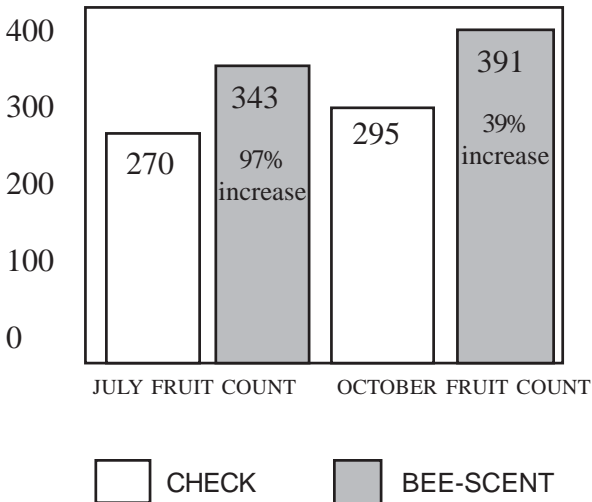
A recent field test, however, has confirmed that Bee-Scent<sup>®</sup> attractant, a pheromone based bee attractant, can increase bee foraging, improve fruit set by as much as one-third and deliver higher profits at the end of the season.

A 21-acre orchard of 10-year-old avocado trees near Camarillo, CA was selected for a field test. Bee-Scent<sup>®</sup> was commercially applied to a five-acre section of the orchard in mid-April. In July, researchers conducted a fruit count to determine the number of avocados in treated vs. untreated trees. There were no commercial bee hives placed in the orchard and none were observed within 100 yards of the orchard.

Ten trees within the application area and ten trees outside the application area were used as the basis for fruit count. The result was an average increase of 27 percent in the number of observed fruit of Bee-Scent<sup>®</sup> treated trees compared to untreated trees.

To reconfirm counts, researchers returned to the orchard in October for comparison counts. Surprisingly, as fruit matured and became more easily seen within the tree canopy's, the fruit set among Bee-Scent<sup>®</sup> treated trees increased to an advantage of 32 percent more fruit than untreated trees.

### BEE-SCENT ON AVOCADOS Number of new fruit per tree



## BEE-SCENT Application Recommendations

Almonds

**Rate** - Two quarts of BEE-SCENT per acre;  
(4.75 - 5 liters per hectare).

### Water Dilution -

Ground: 50 to 200 gallons per acre;  
(470 - 1870 liters/Ha.).

Aerial: 8 to 15 gallons per acre;  
(75 - 140 liters/Ha.).

**Application Procedure** - Early morning application, avoiding rain and irrigation schedules is important. Weather must be favorable for bee flight: i.e., sunny and warmer than 60°F, with winds less than 15 mph. To prevent interfering with the bee's homing abilities, do not overspray hives.

**Timing of Application** - The first Bee-Scent treatment should be made at 30 - 50% bloom. A second Bee-Scent treatment should be made at full (89% - 100%) bloom, typically 4 - 7 days later.

**Chemical Compatibility - Do not mix with insecticides toxic to bees.** To safeguard bees do not apply bee-toxic chemicals during active bee pollination periods. Bee-Scent is compatible with Bt based bioinsecticides, and many fungicides and micronutrients. To avoid interference with the pheromone "message" check with your dealer about tank-mixture additives with Bee-Scent.

**Hive Numbers and Placement** - It is important that growers work with their beekeeper to insure each crop is supplied with an adequate number of strong hives.

Ideally, bees should be delivered to the area one day before the planned BEE-SCENT treatment. This will prevent bees from becoming habituated on a competing nearby crop or wildflowers.

Hives evenly distributed throughout the orchard ensures best results. Groups of colonies spaced at even intervals around the orchard periphery are a good alternative. In the case of a small block, colonies can be placed on the downwind edge of the area.

### ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Pheromones .....                | 9.5%   |
| Other Natural Attractants ..... | 42.5%  |
| Inert Ingredients .....         | 48.0%  |
| Total .....                     | 100.0% |

Packaged:  
2 1/2 Gallon Bottles  
Two Bottles Per Case



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