New Project

TF 197

Determining the cost benefit of a range of thinning strategies for apple

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Project Number:	TF 197
Title:	Determining the cost benefit of a range of thinning strategies for apple
Start and end dates:	1st February 2011 to 31st January 2012
Project Leader:	Gary Saunders East Malling Research
Industry Representative:	Giles Cannon GSR Fruits Ltd
Location:	East Malling Research, New Road, East Malling, Kent. ME19 6BJ
HDC Cost:	£19,326

Project Summary:

Reducing the cost of hand thinning is a high priority to UK fruit growers. The aims of this project are to evaluate five differing thinning strategies compared to an untreated control in Gala apple. The cost of thinning application and picking will be determined and the effects on yield of class quality and hence return will provide a cost benefit for each treatment. The number of initial flower clusters will be recorded and fruit number will be determined after set and June drop and at harvest. At harvest fruit will be graded into commercial size categories and fruit number and weight will be determined for each of these size grades.

Aims & Objectives:

(i) Project aim:

To determine the effectiveness and cost benefit of a range of thinning strategies for Gala apple.

(ii) Project objective(s):

1. To apply eight treatments including an un-thinned control
2. To determine the time taken and cost for each treatment method
3. To determine yield in each size category at harvest for each treatment
4. To determine the cost benefit of each treatment

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Further information

Email the HDC office (hdc@hdc.ahdb.org.uk), quoting your HDC number, alternatively contact the HDC at the address below:

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