Increasing Branching of Newly Planted Apple Trees

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In 2013, Valent BioSciences expanded the MaxcelTM 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

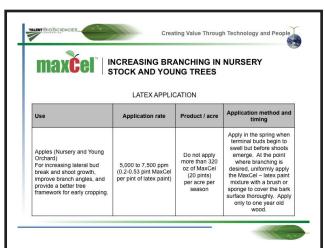


Figure 1. The Maxcel label noting its use to enhance branching.

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 budbreak 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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