

Growers Impressed, Say “It Works”

Over the last 3 months, 2 Table Grape Producers in Robinvale have been trialling the strengths of the “Martignani Low Volume Electrostatic B612 Whirlwind, 1000Litre, Tower Sprayer” for a GA (Gibberellic Acid) Grape sizing trial

John Albanese and his sons Robert & David of Alby's Farms Pty Ltd & Frank Zappia of Koala Grape Producers, both of Robinvale have conducted the extensive trial with the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer alongside their existing nebulizer sprayers. With their existing sprayers they spray each spray sizing GA at 1000l of water per acre, at (3 x 30ppm) on their Thompson Seedless Grapes

Alby's Farm chose for their test of the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer to spray at 2 different rates.

250 L of water at (3 x 50ppm) per acre &

500 L of water at (3 x 50ppm) per acre

With the 250lpa Robert stated that he had a water saving of 75% and a chemical saving of 58.4% & grape sizing of 16-19 while slightly smaller, a very uniform & saleable fruit

With the 500lpa he stated a water saving of 50% and a chemical saving of 17% with fruit size of 17-21

Frank Zappia chose to test the rates at

250lpa at (3 x 30ppm) &

250Lpa at (3 x 120ppm)

Obviously both trials had a water saving of 75% the first with a chemical saving of 75%

The second was equivalent to his own sprayer chemical application, however with a water saving of 75%

For the first trial he found grape sizing ranged from 16-18 while the second his grapes sized from 17-21

Both farms concluded that it was a very worthwhile trial and that the fruit sprayed with the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer produced much cleaner fruit (with far less black spots on the fruit) and the fruit sprayed with the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer had absolutely no disease present

Each trial was conducted behind a Deutz Agroplus 100F vineyard tractor at 4.2kph, kindly supplied by John & Isabel Primerano of Primtec Tractors in Mildura. When using the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer, owners & operators will notice not only water & chemical savings, but as the sprayer is a low volume, low pressure sprayer operating at only 1.5 bar or approximately 25psi, the sprayer demands less HP to operate converting to less diesel used. With the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer's capability to spray at such low water volumes the operator can spray a greater acreage than with their exiting unit, with far less water consumption, equating to more

area covered with less refills. When Karl Aldridge of Burder Materials Handling, Martignani Australian Importer, told Frank that not only do they offer smaller 3 point linkage models along with their 1000L & 1500L models, they now can now offer a 3000L tank, Frank's surprised response was, 'with that tank, you could stay out spraying all day, you would even need a flat screen in the tractor to pass the time' which created a chuckle amongst the group

While the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer was on site, Alby's Farm chose to also trial the unit with an Insecticide/cover spray needing to coat the fruit but leave no residue or have no run off. They were suitably impressed with the fact that the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer, covered the fruit perfectly and they could find no evidence of run off or residue left on the fruit.

In order to maximise the test results Alby's Farm also ran a PROTONE Colouring Test. They mixed the spray at 250 grams per 1000l and sprayed @ 400 Litres per acre, using the bottom spray heads only. Robert said "that the grapes sprayed with the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume Sprayer, showed very even colour on both sides of the bunches, and that they were very happy with the results."

Overall the on farm evaluation has shown that the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer is an extremely versatile spray unit, as shown in the past on other foliage, the ability to target the fruit or leaves as required by the individual operator to whether to enhance crop growth or disease reduction, the Martignani Electrostatic Low Volume sprayer is a winner

For more info or to discuss your spraying needs contact Primtec Tractors in Mildura on 03 5022 1086 or the Martignani Australian Importer & distributor, Burder Materials Handling on 03 5722 2343 to be put in touch with your nearest dealer, or visit our website www.martignani.com.au



Frank Zappia, John & Robert Albanese with Primtec Dealer Principal John Primerano



