

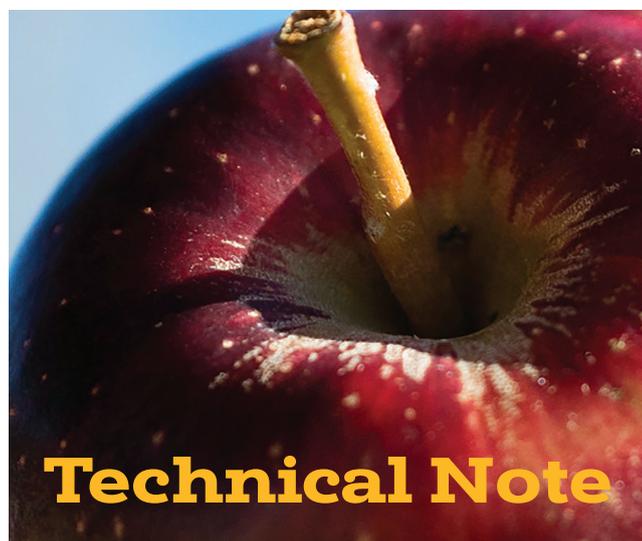


Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



bravo[™]
apple

LIKE NO OTHER[™]



Technical Note

ANABP 01[®] – Pruning for Pack Out

Steele Jacob

Australian National Apple Breeding Program, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

When growing the ANABP 01[®] variety, the focus must be to achieve the best orchard establishment and practice to maximise the volume of fruit meeting the premium BRAVO[™] specifications. Establishing an appropriate tree structure through pruning tree training and management is essential to ensure the colour specifications are met and skin blemishes are minimalised.

The ANABP 01[®] variety seems adaptable to accommodate a range of growing systems depending on rootstock, environment and grower preference. Consistent fruit colour development and quality is noticeable as trees reach maturity and full production at 5–6 years of age and intensive nutrient programs to promote tree growth are reduced.

Adequate pruning and tree training is recommended during tree establishment. The key is to construct an open tree to increase light interception around fruiting wood and reduce the potential

of fruit shading resulting in poor colour. ANABP 01[®] colours within the first 4–6 weeks after fruit set and this colour intensifies from dark red/brown to burgundy/black as fruit reaches maturity. It is important to have pruning completed during winter, before flowering, to allow the new fruit to have initial exposure to light from the beginning of fruit development. Summer pruning potentially exposes un-hardened fruit which increases the risk of sun damage. Depending on your orchard conditions and environment, the use of a Plant Growth Regulator may be a useful tool to reduce vigour or foliage and avoid summer pruning or leaf removal to negate the risk of exposing fruit in summer.

When pruning and tying down branches, use the full circumference of the leader to direct branches into the open space. Remove limbs that are parallel or too close and avoid crossing over of limbs from neighbouring trees. Too many congested branches will result in fruit being too shaded or fruit above rubbing on limbs below. Structure branch direction and angles to create space before the second and third tiers and encourage light throughout the tree. Remove fruit buds closer than 100mm to the leader as this fruit will struggle to colour and is prone to limb rubbing. Give the fruit space to develop colour to maximise the potential pack out after harvest. 🍏



FIGURE 1: Tree examples show branches in red to be removed reduce competition for space and light.

NOVEMBER 2018

Bold. Daring. Different.

Bravo Apples **bravoapples**