

Extend Almond Bloom for Increased Nut Set



Now Approved for Aerial Application

Each year between February and early March, California almond orchards burst with beautiful flowers as almond buds begin to bloom. The longer the bloom, and if weather cooperates, the better your chances for each of those almond blooms to become pollinated, and the better your chances for a strong nut set and yield potential.

“Keeping the almond bloom viable longer is important for pollination — especially if wind, cloudy days or rain interfere with bees foraging,” said Tom Caruso, almond crop lead for Valent. “By keeping the flower alive longer, growers can help ensure the success of their investment.”

Keep Flowers Alive Longer

There’s never been a way to keep almond flowers viable longer. Until now. ReTain® Plant Growth Regulator for California Soluble Powder extends the viability of almond bloom, allowing more opportunity for nut set, thus ensuring optimum crop load potential.

ReTain works by reducing the blooms’ production of ethylene, thus delaying flower and stigmatic senescence. This results in flowers being viable longer, which allows more time for pollination to occur.

“ReTain is a proven technology with established use patterns for fruit and nut set in California cherries and walnuts,” Caruso said.

Apply from 30 to 60% Bloom: Ground or Aerial

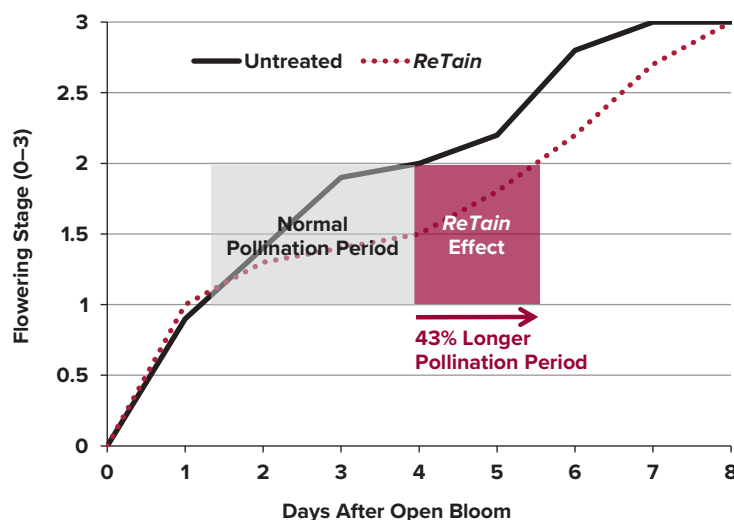
ReTain can be applied from 10% bloom to petal fall. Now approved for aerial application, ReTain can be applied by fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft. Aerial application provides greater application flexibility during a tight almond bloom window and offers greater yield potential. A ReTain aerial application not only reaches more acres quicker than ground applications, it also helps ensure optimal application timing at 30 to 60% bloom.



To learn more about ReTain for almonds, visit valent.com/ReTainCA or contact your PCA.

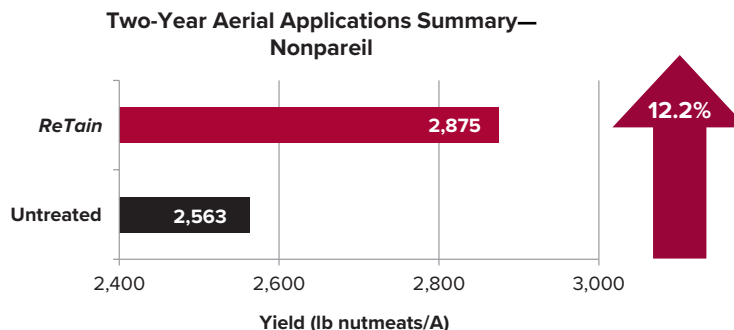
Extend the Pollination Period

Field studies have demonstrated that ReTain extends the life of an almond bloom for a 43% longer pollination period over the untreated check.



Aerial Application Advantages

In aerial application trials conducted in 2016 and 2017 with ReTain on nonpareil almonds, nutmeat yields increased on average by 312 lb/A—a 12.2% yield increase over the untreated check. Applications were made via fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft at application volumes ranging from 15 to 20 gal/A. This compares to a 7.5% average yield increase for ground applications.



“To capitalize on a longer almond bloom and, most importantly, increased nut set, growers can now rely on ReTain,” Caruso said.



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