



Cold weather protection

The recent variable weather is placing pressure on many of the fruit crops which were pushing on from the hot spell in the south or grown under cover and are being pushed into production. Many growers have seen growth checks and cold temperature stress, so with the possibility of late frosts not ruled out, we thought it pertinent to review the frost information we placed in last month's newsletter.

In the last four years Engage Agro Europe has been looking at frost protection which could be applied to give more protection than just a physical barrier. We have looked at microbial packages, other packages that changed the shape of pre-frost molecules and other nutrient anti-stress packages. All had some effect although in many trials these effects were minimal.

We recommend

One product that stood out was '**Frost Protect**' made by Compo in Germany. The technology works by providing a package of nutrients supported by cryoprotectants and an anti-stress package which protects the cold plants' cells from freezing and by significantly reducing the oxidative stress compounds produced inside the cells.

Under testing we have found that when applied 36 hours before a frost event the technology has given fruit crops protection down to as low as -5°C. Another significant benefit is that when activated by the frost, the technology continues to work for up to seven days.

Frost Protect penetrates the plant and the cryoprotectants move into the gaps between cells to reduce the risk of them freezing and the support package is used by the cells for frost stress relief. As we can appreciate this takes time and therefore the 36 hour window needs to be adhered to for optimal protection.

For further information contact your EAE advisor - downloads are available on the following link.



[CLICK HERE for more information on this technology](#)

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and you can talk to one of our fruit agronomists.