



Future
Orchards

TAS Demonstration Trials Update

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Trials 2019 - 2020

1. Stem Clipping Envy apples

- Planned to be a trial of stem clipping in Envy apples at Hansen Orchards in April 2020
- Unfortunately due to COVID 19 postage delays the stem clippers did not arrive from NZ in time for the Envy harvest
- Now undertaking a survey of growers using stem clipping in Envy and literature to document practical tips and decision making used by growers when stem clipping Envy apples.
- Results will be presented at the TAS Spring 2020 orchard walk.

2. Investigating Gala apple eating quality

- The trial is investigating the effect of harvest maturity and the use of Harvista on the eating quality of Gala apples
- Trial located at R.W Squibb & Sons orchards at Spreyton
- Fruit samples were collected in March – April 2020 and are now in cool storage.
- Fruit taste panel of fruit will be undertaken in Spring 2020.

Commercial Harvest

Treatments:

- Early pick (untreated) - 10/3/20
- Commercial pick (untreated) 16/3/20
- Late pick(untreated) – 26/3/20
- Early pick (PGR treated) – 16/03/20
- Commercial pick (PGR treated) – 26/3/20
- Late pick (PGR treated) – 6/4/20



Untreated
16/3/20

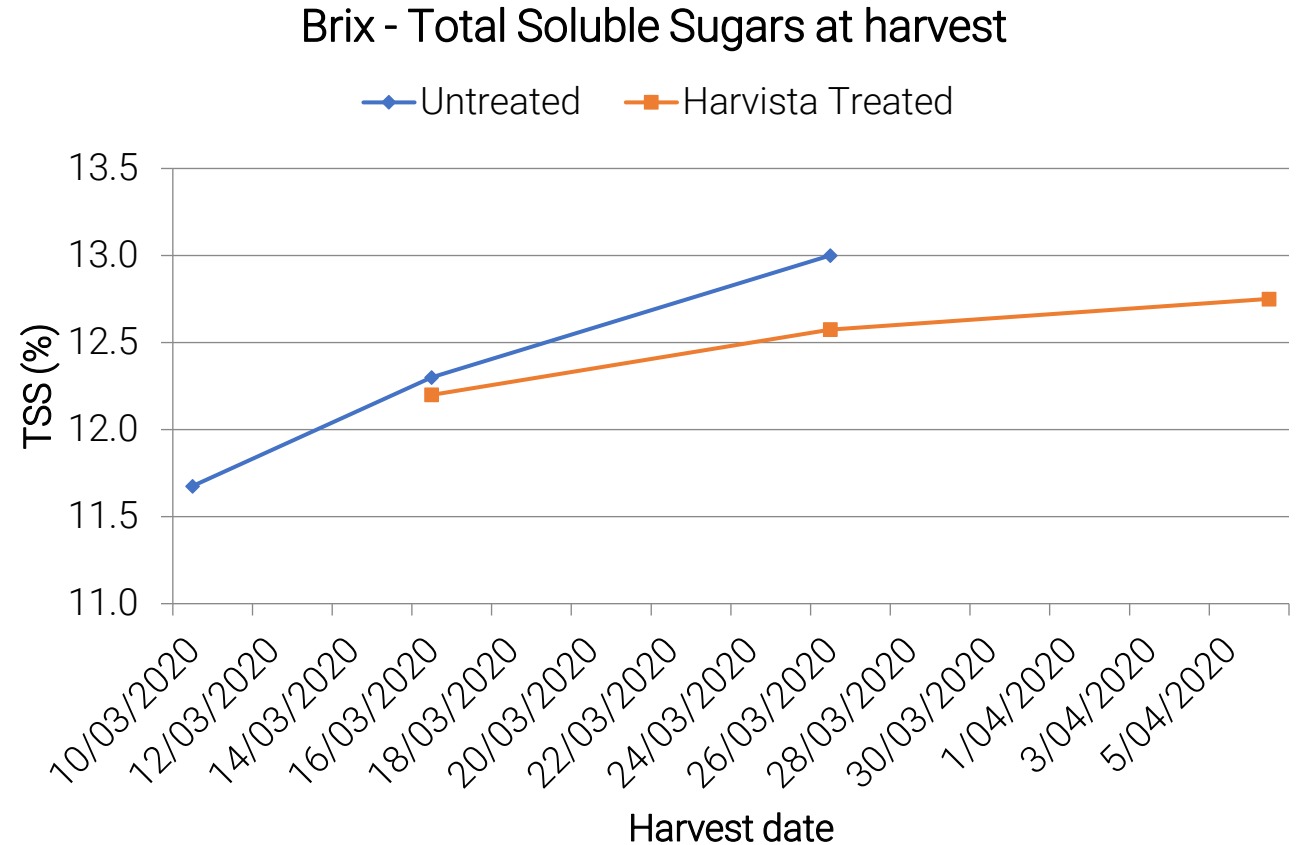


Harvista Untreated
26/3/20



Investigating Gala Eating Quality Trial – results to date

- Brix increased with the later harvest dates.
- The Harvista treated fruit had slightly lower brix levels than the untreated fruit at the later harvest dates.



Gala trial – Starch Pattern Index at Harvest

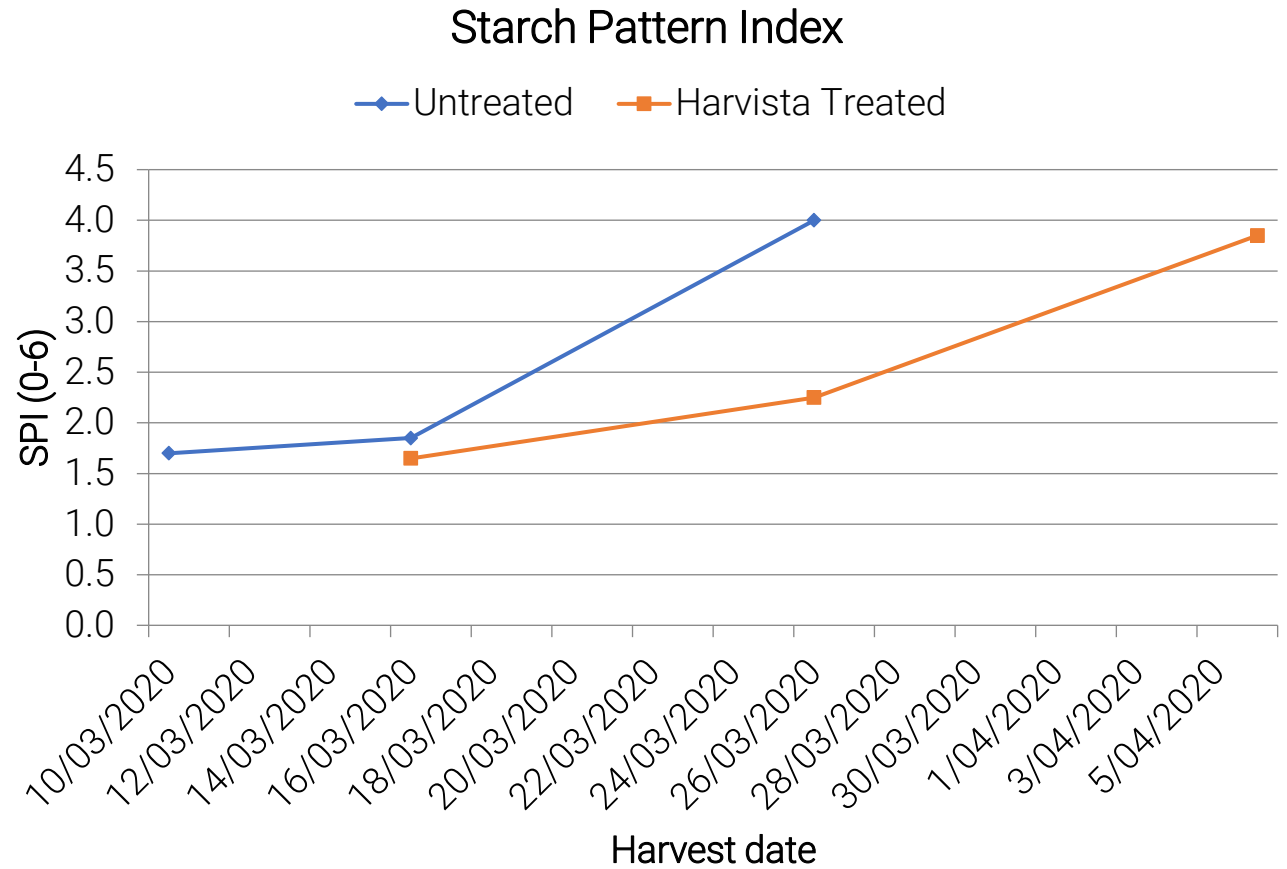
Untreated
Pick 3 - Late
pick
26/3/20



Harvista
treated
Pick 2 -
Commercial
pick
26/03/20



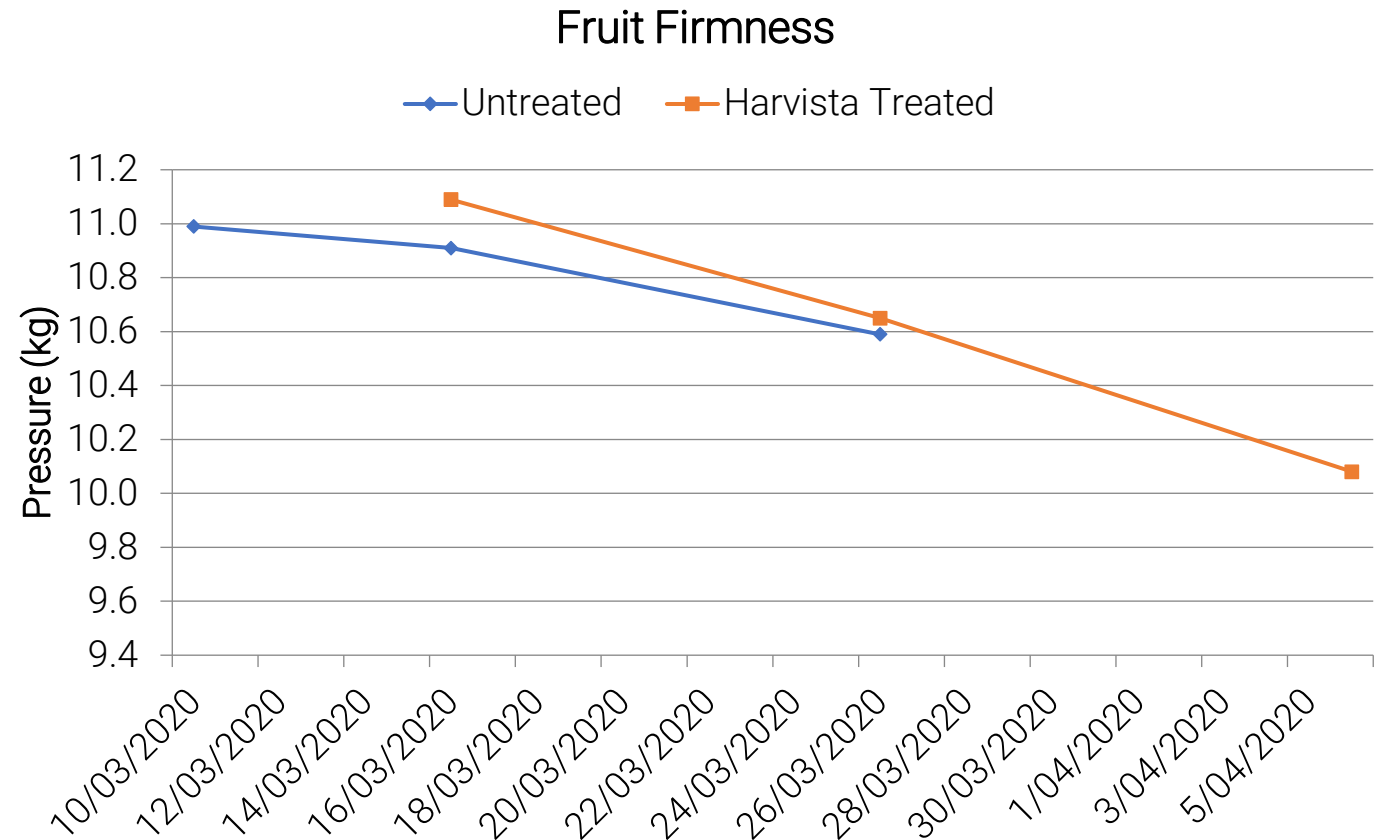
Harvista treated fruit ripened ~10 days later than the untreated fruit.





Gala trial – Fruit firmness at harvest

As expected fruit firmness decreased as the with the later harvest dates.





Gala trial – summary of results to date

- Harvista treated fruit ripened ~ 10 later than the untreated fruit and led to increased colour in later picked fruit.
- Fruit firmness reduced as the harvest date increased.
- Untreated fruit had slightly higher brix levels than the Harvista treated fruit.
- An eating quality trial in Spring 2020 will assess the impact of these maturity differences on apple eating quality.



Demonstration trial ideas for 2020- 2021

The Tasmanian Community Orchard Group (COG) have raised 3 topics being considered for trials for the 2020-21 season.

Including;

1. Apple replant trial comparing different rootstocks
2. A blossom thinning trial
3. Cost effectiveness of hand thinning at different timings after full bloom

Two trials will be chosen from this list.

Thank-you
