FRUIT COLOUR AND SIZE.

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• One of the FO2012 objectives is to improve Australian apple and pear grower’s attitude to intensification, production quality, world competitiveness and the need to understand profitability.
• Replacing the lesser coloured apple varieties with better, high coloured strains, e.g. Rosy Glow, Ruby Pink, Buckeye gala, will have the greatest impact on colouring in the orchard and will give higher yields if planted in high density orchards.
Reflective matting has more effect on older trees and V-systems.
Australian varieties - 3 Ladies

- Pink Lady
- Granny Smith
- Sundowner, call it Red Lady

Promoting the varieties ......

Club varieties ??
Corella

Red Sensation
Fruit Growth

• Diameter measurements while useful are relatively imprecise for following of fruit growth.
• Fruit enlargement is not the same in all directions.
• Using a graph with the projected size will give an insight into the process of fruit growth.
• With technology like fertigation you can influence the growth to a certain extent.
The availability of sufficient water for irrigation is essential.

- For a high production you need 6 mega-liter/ha of good water with freedom of damaging salts.
- A full automatic irrigation system.
- Over-head irrigation for frost control and to cool the trees on hot days.
• Cooling down apple trees by micro sprinkler irrigation under Spanish conditions, during the last week before harvest, increased the anthocyanin content of the skin (better colour).

• The inside of the fruit has to cooled down to have an effect. Spraying with 1000L/2000L will have very little effect to cool down the inside of fruit.
• Light is the key environmental factor that affects fruit growth, and for which the level can change markedly within a tree canopy.

• Studies carried out by Tustin et al. (1988)
Thank you.

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