

**FIRMAN**



# Pollen

# Application

## Handling Tips

When you receive your pollen immediately remove it from the box and place it in the FREEZER.

On the day of application remove the pollen from the freezer and place in the shipping box or cool box with NO ice packs. This will allow the pollen to come up to ambient temperature. Bees will stop to clean themselves of ice cold pollen before visiting any blossoms.

## Application Timing

Proper application of supplemental pollen is critical in achieving quantifiable results. Research has always shown that splitting pollen application into multiple applications produces better results. The timing of applications is the most critical step in the use of supplemental pollination. Pollen application is always controlled by bloom stage and weather.

## First Application

First application should occur when your targeted variety is at 40% bloom. At this time the trees of the targeted variety will appear quite white, 4 flowers out of every 10 will be open. DO NOT judge bloom stage by the outside rows. Walk the orchard and check for consistency. Application should start when the average tree of the targeted variety is at 40% bloom. Applying pollen too early will minimize the number of flowers that will be fertilized, which will minimize the return on money spent.

## Additional Applications

Additional applications will be determined by how quickly or slowly your bloom progresses. The second application should be applied at 60% bloom. If a third application is used, it should be applied at 80% bloom. The weather will play the largest role in determining the speed at which the bloom progresses and the timing of the second and third applications.

## Weather Considerations

Weather considerations control application strategies, plan accordingly.

## Hot Weather

In hot weather bloom may progress very rapidly. Applications may occur on consecutive days or may require multiple applications on 1 day. It is imperative that a close watch on bloom is maintained.

## Cool Weather

Individual applications may occur as much as 3 to 5 days apart. Judging bloom stage becomes more difficult because each individual tree may have a wide variance in bloom stage.

## Wet Weather

Pollen can't be applied in the rain or fog. Applications must be made whenever possible. In order to apply pollen at least 2 to 3 hours of bee flight and dry weather are needed. Applying pollen during the dry periods is imperative for setting a full crop.

**Questions? Don't hesitate to call us at 1.800.322.8852.**

## Dusting Applications

- Pollen is applied in 2-3 applications.
- Ground speed should be a maximum of 7-8 mph. If necessary more carrier should be added to enable slower ground speed.
- Rule of Thumb
  - ½ strength Firman Pollen with Scumby Pollen Puffer at a rate of 60g/acre/pass
  - ¼ strength Firman Pollen with Generic ATV Applicators at a rate of 120g/acre/pass
- Blower should run at full throttle for maximum air movement.
- Stack attachments are recommended to provide even pollen distribution into the tree canopy.
- Calibration pollen is available upon request.
- ATV dusting applications should be done with temperatures above 50 degrees; temperatures of 55 degrees or higher are much better.

## Insert Application

### Placing the Inserts on the Beehive

- Use one to one and a half inserts per acre.
- If you have more than one hive per acre, mark the most active hives. When bee flight is occurring, place the insert on the top of the most active hives. These marked hives will be the hives that are used to apply the pollen.
- Early in the morning or in the evening, when no bee flight is occurring, take the insert off of the top of the bee box and place it at the hive entrance.
- Be sure the opening is sloped into the hive, and the insert is tight against the opening.

### Placing Pollen in the Bee Hive Inserts

- Bee flight **MUST BE OCCURRING** during pollen applications, the stonger the better.
- Temperature must be above 50 degrees and above 55 with higher temperatures expected is better.
- Split your pollen into the number of applications you intend to make. Typically we recommend applying 20 grams per acre per application. A rounded teaspoon is approximately 5 grams and a level tablespoon is about 10 grams.
- During bee flight, spread the pollen evenly across the length of the insert. Continue applying pollen until the application is complete. It will require more than one visit to each hive. Do not overfill the insert. It limits bee activity and the bees will stop to clean themselves before traveling to your orchard.

## Dusting Application

Pollen is applied when bloom stage and weather permit. Contact us if you have questions regarding your specific dusting equipment.

***It pays to use Firman Pollen***

**With any further questions don't hesitate  
to contact us at 1.800.322.8852**

**FIRMAN**



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