

FIRMAN



Pollen

Co., Inc.

Serving Agriculture Since 1933

Application

Beehive Applicator Instructions



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 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.



Questions? Don't hesitate to call us:

Firman Pollen

800-322-8852 | FirmanPollen.com

301 N 1st Avenue | Yakima, WA 98902 | 509-452-8063 | Fax: 509-453-6838



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► **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 bag with NO ice packs. This will allow the pollen to come up to ambient temperature.

► **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 pollen. 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.



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