

ProTone™ Plant Growth Regulator – Picture the Possibilities™



ProTone™
Plant Growth Regulator
Picture the Possibilities.™

is an exciting new development for table grape production in Australia. ProTone SG, containing the natural plant hormone s-ABA (Abscisic Acid), allows growers to accelerate or increase the red colouration of their red table grape varieties.

ProTone SG applied to maturing grapes accelerates the accumulation of anthocyanin in the skins of maturing grapes. Anthocyanins are responsible for the red colour of the skins of the red grape varieties.

How ProTone makes you money

The market demands red table grapes of high quality. This quality comes from size, sugars and colour. Our high summer temperatures mean that our grapes have often developed their size and sugars, but the red colour isn't coming along fast enough. This means the grapes are either left on the vine to colour up, or multiple harvest picks are made to only take of the grapes with good colour. Grapes that never achieve the colour that the market is looking for are simply lost or sold at a discount to the premium product.

Getting grapes harvested earlier has significant advantages:

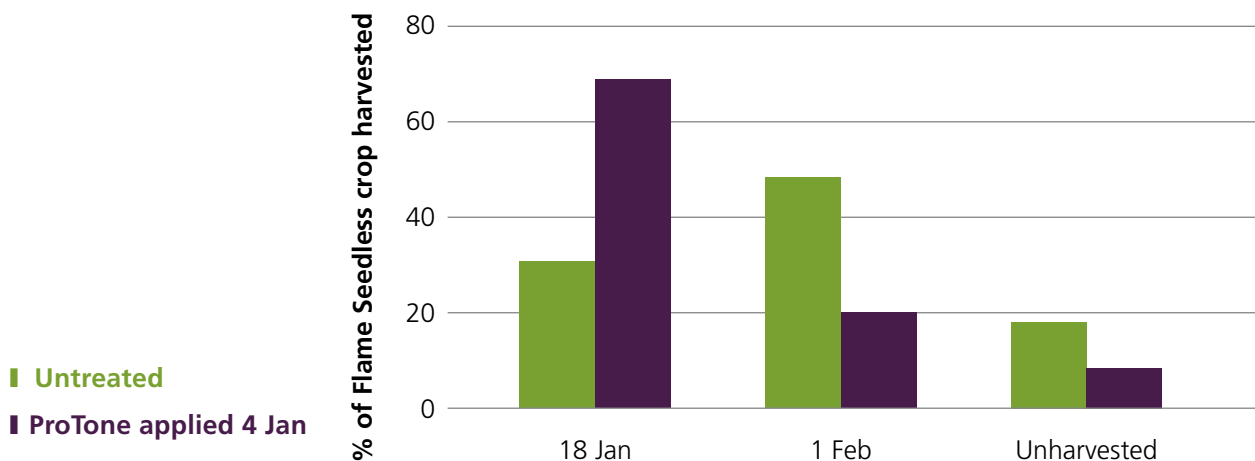
- Capitalise on better market prices
- Avoid the possibility of damage from wet weather
- Savings on further pest and disease management costs
- Potential to reduce the number of harvest runs



CASE STUDY 1

Variety: Flame Seedless. Lake Boga, 2006.

Following a single application, the ProTone treated block had the majority of grapes picked in the first harvest compared to the untreated block. Ultimately 20% of the fruit was never picked off the untreated control as it did not get to the desired colour, compared to less than 8% in the ProTone block.



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The following case studies show the extra income produced when ProTone was used.

CASE STUDY 2

Variety: Flame Seedless. Robinvale, 2006.
Following a single application, the ProTone treated block had 248 more boxes harvested than the untreated block. At a price of \$20.00 per 10 kg box, this equated to an extra \$4,960 per hectare when ProTone was used.

CASE STUDY 3

Variety: Ralli. Mildura, 2008.
Following a single application, the ProTone treated block had 450 more boxes harvested than the untreated block. At a price of \$20 per 9 kg box, this equated to an extra \$9,000 per hectare when ProTone was used.

CASE STUDY 4

Variety: Crimson Seedless. Robinvale, 2009.
Applications of ProTone to Crimson Seedless resulted in 21% of the crop being harvested 66 days earlier than the untreated. This fruit received a price premium over fruit picked later of \$6 per box. Colouration of this block in previous seasons was always poor and the untreated part of the block continued the trend with only 0.72 cartons per vine harvested from this part of the block compared with 3.17 cartons per vine being harvested from the ProTone treated section. Untreated vines resulted in gross returns of \$15.84 per vine whereas the ProTone treated vines grossed \$73.76 per vine.

CASE STUDY 5

Variety: Crimson Seedless. Lake Powell, 2009.
Applications of ProTone to Crimson Seedless resulted in 83% of the crop being harvested at the first pick compared with 27% in the untreated section of the block. This fruit received a price premium over fruit picked later of \$5 per box. The ProTone treated plot yielded 5.5 x 9 kg boxes per vine but the untreated yielded only 4.3 boxes per vine. Untreated vines resulted in gross returns of \$90.00 per vine whereas the ProTone treated vines grossed \$137.50 per vine. The cost of ProTone used in this study is estimated at \$0.75 per vine.

CASE STUDY 6

Variety: Red Globe. Merbein South, 2007.
Following a single application, the ProTone treated block had 344 more boxes harvested than the untreated block. At a price of \$18.00 per 9 kg box, this equated to an extra \$6,192 per hectare when ProTone was used.



The newest addition to this range is ProTone SG is an exciting new tool for growers looking to enhance the red colouration of table grapes.

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