

# Ralex®

## Ralex® TECHNICAL UPDATE

### The Natural Navel Orange Thinner

Fruit size is the most important production issue facing citrus growers in supplying domestic and export markets.

Market returns are directly linked to fruit size with most markets preferring fruit in the larger size classes.

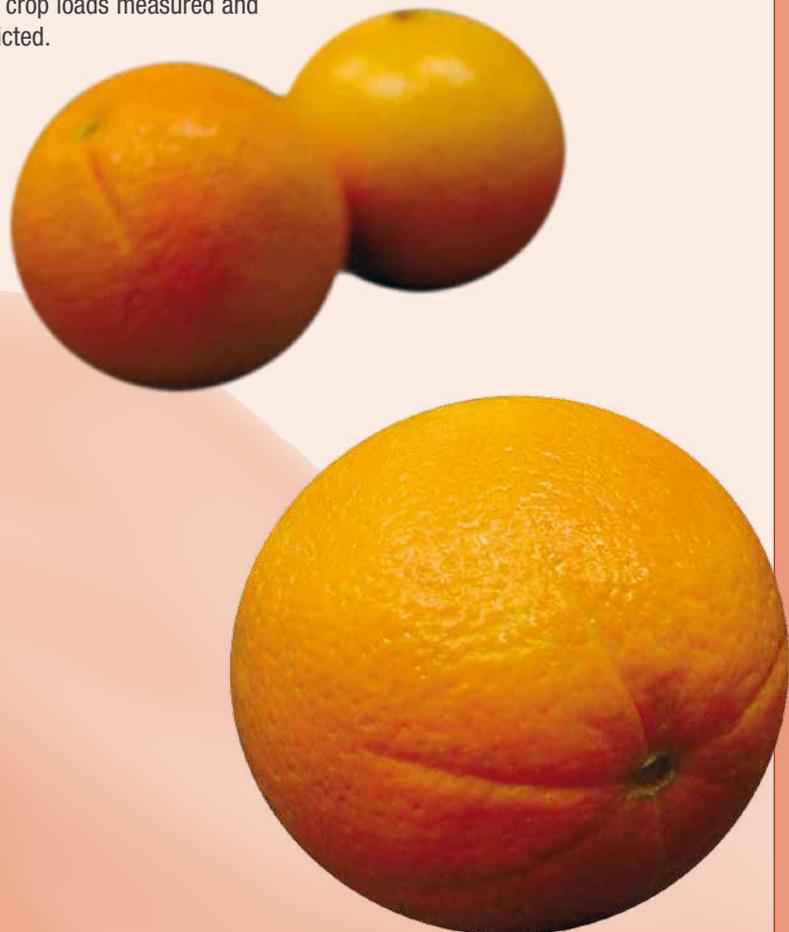
Small fruit has limited demand and is difficult to sell. Depending on the cultivar grown, as little as 10 to 30% of the crop can reach the desired large (>72 mm) size range in heavy crop years, while 30 to 60% can fall into unwanted small (<65 mm) size category.

Trials have demonstrated that an application of Ralex to navel oranges acts as a thinning agent by reducing flowering which can result in an increase in yield.

Ralex also reduces the number of useless leafless inflorescences and increases the number of good vegetative shoots for the following season which results in a levelling out of the alternate bearing of fruit which is a common occurrence in navel oranges.

### Critical factors in using Ralex for crop regulation

1. It is important that the physiology of the tree is understood and crop loads measured and recorded, so that overcropping and small fruit size can be predicted.
2. Timing is critical. If definitive trial results for your area and variety are not available – try small areas first leaving an untreated area so that the thinning response can be measured.
3. Ralex rates will need to be adjusted for expected crop load and fruit size.
4. Good coverage is critical. A minimum of 3000 L/ha of water is recommended.
5. Ensure the spray mix does not have a pH greater than 6.



## On Flowering Year Applications

An application of Ralex at 150 mL to 200 mL/100 L will provide a reduction in leafless inflorescences, increase the number of vegetative shoots and larger fruit numbers resulting in higher yield per tree and mean fruit weight. Earlier timings June versus July for Bellamy navels and May versus June for Barnfield navels provided best results.

## Vegetative Shoots Production

Vegetative shoots are potential sites for next years flowering and an application of Ralex to navel oranges around the 20 May would convert the flowering inflorescences to vegetative shoots.

## Off Flowering Years

Ralex applied in off flowering years will provide an increase in the number of larger fruit however there is a reduction in overall fruit numbers per tree. Therefore applications of Ralex during off years is not recommended.

## Ralex Label Direction for use on Navel Orange

CROP	RATE	CRITICAL COMMENTS
Navel Oranges	150 to 200 mL/100 L in a minimum volume of 3000 L	<p>Apply as a single spray at flower bud initiation stage. This is generally from May to June. Timing of application is dependent on the variety and location.</p> <p>Please consult your Sumitomo Chemical Australia Pty Ltd representative for the latest information on the best application timing for your varieties.</p> <p>Application of Ralex may delay harvest.</p> <p>Do NOT apply to trees that are in an “off” flowering year.</p> <p>Please review the recommendations in the GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.</p>

NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE, OR IN ANY MANNER, CONTRARY TO THIS LABEL UNLESS AUTHORISED UNDER APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.

WITHHOLDING PERIOD (WHP): NOT REQUIRED WHEN USED AS DIRECTED.



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