

CITRUS

Decco debuts new citrus system

Citrus postharvest specialist Decco has launched a new product, SRC Decco, which it says will help hard-pressed growers in the fresh produce business to save money

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The Spanish citrus sector has experienced, without a shadow of a doubt, a difficult twelve months, with a warmer than usual autumn followed by prolonged rains, winds and frosts leading to a disappointing harvest and fruit shortages. Given such difficulties, the need for Spain's citrus growers to reduce costs in all areas, including postharvest treatments, has become essential and it is here that postharvest specialist Decco believes it can offer help.

"The system allows growers to maintain a more stable concentration of fungicide, which has an affect on the improvement of the efficiency of treatments carried out, with the result that the total consumption of fungicides is reduced and waste is eliminated," he explains.

As well as this, Mr Alabadi says the process gives citrus producers the power to recover all fungicides that have been dissolved into the treatment residue, allowing them to reapply the postharvest treatment the same day without additional cost.

Decco, he continues, is also working with its clients to progressively integrate

Postharvest solutions specialist Decco has begun distributing a new product, called Philabuster, which it claims offers "the most efficient formula" for the prevention of citrus infections caused by Penicillium fungus.

The fungus can attack citrus following harvesting and during the marketing cycle, and, according to the company, is a problem that is responsible for the highest percentage of postharvest citrus losses after harvesting.

Given this, Decco's Daniel Alabadi argues that a product such as Philabuster should be part of every citrus postharvest treatment strategy.

"Decco recommends that growers make use of this formula as part of the steps that should be taken to reduce citrus losses caused by fungus and other plant diseases," Mr Alabadi says.



Decco highlighted its Decconatur range and the SRC Decco product at Fruit Logistica 2010

According to Decco's Daniel Alabadi, the company has launched a product, called SRC Decco, which offers citrus growers the ability to make savings by enabling them to reuse post harvest treatments.

Mr Alabadi believes the treatment system will "revolutionise" the citrus sector by enabling producers to benefit from the 'clean' use of fungicides in the postharvest treatment of fruit. The system, he explains, allows for the recovery of 100 per cent of soluble fungicides present in treatment residues, while also avoiding the wastage or dumping of these materials.

As well as enabling growers to recycle fungicide treatments, Mr Alabadi says the SRC Decco system also removes "solids in suspension" and organic matter.

products from its new Decconatur range with their postharvest systems; a range that offers alternative and complementary products for the synthesis of fungicides.

Aside from products, one of the principal developments for Decco as a company over the last 12 months has been its expansion at a global level with the acquisition late last year of Citrashine South Africa. Through the acquisition, Mr Alabadi says Decco has been able to both strengthen its structure and receive direct access to clients in South Africa as well as other emerging markets in the region.

At a European level, he says that the company works principally in markets where citrus and topfruit production are a major concern, namely Spain, Italy, France,

the UK, Ireland and Greece, although it also works from these countries with growers across the Mediterranean region.

Mr Alabadi says Decco is looking to expand the uses of its Decconatur postharvest solutions in Europe beyond citrus and topfruit to other sectors, such as stonefruit and vegetables, in keeping with its US operations. Through such treatments, he believes stonefruit and vegetable producers can improve the appearance and increase the shelf-life of their products.

In terms of Decco Iberia, Mr Alabadi says the Valencia-based subsidiary has achieved good results to date in spite of the challenging economic conditions. "We are very satisfied with the results we have seen to date, although these positive results are the result of the work we have carried out in recent years to continue growing in the market," he explains.

"In Spain, there has been a major fall in citrus production this season, aggravated by the poor weather conditions we have seen since the start of the campaign, with high temperatures during autumn, prolonged rains, frosts and winds.

"All of this together has resulted in a lower volume of fruit being produced, but we have compensated for this by increasing our number of clients," adds Mr Alabadi. ■