

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN I CHERRY DOUBLING Mitigate Cherry Doubling with Parka®

# **CHERRY FRUIT DOUBLING**

Doubling is a deformation of the fruit that results in two equally sized cherries that are insufficiently separated or one underdeveloped fruit protruding from a normally sized one, known as a spur. Double and spur fruit can result in economic losses as they are considered culls, and they are usually more prone to decay (Micke et al, 1983). On average, doubling can range between 5% and 15%, depending on location and cultivar. However, it can reach 50% on susceptible cultivars in hot growing areas. (Whiting and Martin, 2021). Doubling is likely to increase as growers plant orchards in warmer climates and as the climate gets warmer.

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This disorder occurs as a result of hot summer temperatures during the flower differentiation stage, affecting the development of flower buds that are forming for the next season's crop. Temperatures above 94° F (34°C) can cause the pistil of the developing flower to double and produce two incomplete cherries the following season (Herrero et al. 2017).

#### **CHERRY FRUIT DOUBLING**



#### **CHERRY FRUIT SPUR**





# cultiva

#### Parka® for Fruit Doubling Prevention

Parka<sup>®</sup> applied post-harvest supplements and strengthens the leaf cuticle. Furthermore, it has shown to increase the leaves' chlorophyll and pheophytin content, as well as improve net CO2 exchange and transpiration rates. This overall enhanced tree performance suggests better resistance to heat stress, which allows the tree to continue photosynthesizing and supporting flower development and ultimately decrease the number of doubled fruits the following season.

#### 64% Reduction in Cherry Doubling When Parka is Applied Post-Harvest

Across Three Internal Trials from 2017-2020.



## Parka<sup>®</sup> on Cherries Post-Harvest

- Reduces cherry doubling by up to 64% over control (Figure 1).
- Reduces doubles and spurs as effective as overhead cooling (Figure 2).
- Easily tank mixed with foliar nutrients and pesticides.
- Leaves no visible residue.
- Exempt from maximum residue levels.
- No preharvest interval; No worker reentry interval.

## % Doubles and Spurs on Cherries

California 2019 and 2020



FIRST AID	RATE	APPLICATIONS	
Parka	1% v/v	June 2019	July 2019

## Post-Harvest Parka® Program for Cherry Doubling

Apply 1 gal of Parka® per acre 1-2 weeks post-harvest. Reapply every 14-21 days for a minimum of two applications per season.

#### References

Herrero, M., et al. 2017. Flowering, Fruit Set and Development.

Micke, W., et al. 1983. Doubling potential of sweet cherry cultivars. Hilgardia.

Whiting, M. and R. Martin. 2021. When and how to reduce doubling in sweet cherry. WSU Tree Fruit.

To learn more, visit Cultiva.com, reach out to your local Parka representative or contact a retailer. Parka is a registered trademark of Cultiva LLC.

