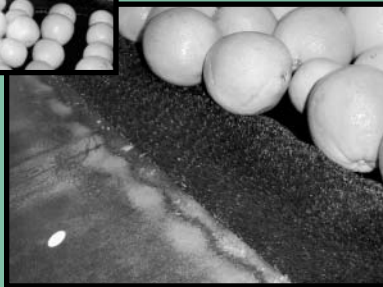


● Variable-rate fruit-coating applicator defines a new Pace



The PaceSetter is a variable-rate, fruit-coating applicator designed for use in the fruit packing industry. The PaceSetter system accounts for variability in fruit flow by maintaining a uniform application rate. Currently, fruit coating/fungicide mixtures are applied at a constant rate using spinning disks or irrigation-style drip emitters above fruit traveling on a brush-roll conveyor. Fruit flow can be highly variable, therefore a constant-rate method can be wasteful, costly, and result in a questionable application. With the PaceSetter accurately sensing fruit flow, a control algorithm controls solenoid valves which are used to vary fruit coating-spray application. The operator interface is a touch-screen, which is used for machine calibration and monitoring. Optimizing coating and fungicide application lengthens the market life of fruit by slowing dehydration and suppressing decay to ensure that consumers receive quality fruit in the marketplace.

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