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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Innovative sprayer modification improves efficiency**

A Shepparton fruit grower, well known for innovation in the industry has developed a modification to the standard orchard air blast sprayer that's set to change the way sunburn protection products are applied to fruit crops.

Mr Joseph Rullo has used Surround to protect his fifteen hectare apple orchard from Sunburn and heat stress for several years. Mr Rullo said, "Last year we had exceptionally high temperatures topping out at 47 degrees Celsius. Under these extreme conditions your Surround coverage needs to be spot on to maximize the reduction in crop damage. We know that Surround is a great product but our conventional air blast sprayer was not applying it as well as it should.. It is commonsense, if you want to protect fruit from sunburn you have to apply the Surround on the uppermost surfaces of the fruit that face the sun."

Joseph came up with an engineering solution that has been tested in his orchard this spring. "What we did was design a bolt-on solution to re-direct the forced air and spray droplets to above the tree canopy rather than from below it. This coats the fruit that is exposed to the sun."

"The key benefits of this extension, apart from improved coverage, include easy bolt-on and unbolt function so existing air blast sprayers can be used for sunburn products and then converted back for conventional spraying. This means a grower can utilize his existing equipment for another use, getting better performance from his Surround and improving yield and quality potential," Mr Rullo added.

I apply my Surround with 600L of water per hectare and get a better job than 1000L with a conventional airblast sprayer. This means you can spray more hectares from the one tank which lowers the cost of application and means I can spray more hectares in a day." said Mr Rullo.

Growers interested in purchasing a bolt-on height extension for their own air blast sprayer should contact Joseph on 0419 564 201.

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