

# Observational trial of SLVRLining and standard reflective cloth

under Rainier cherries in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

## Solar radiation

Light was assessed using an Apogee MP-200 pyranometer in the week that the cloth was laid.

On a cloudless day, the SLVRLining cloth reflected more photosynthetically active solar radiation back up into the canopy than the standard cloth or control. On average, the SLVRLining treatment reflected 46% of incoming radiation back into the cherry canopy while the standard cloth reflected 36%.

## Brix

A 30 fruit assessment was sampled on the day prior to harvest for each of the three picks.

Fruit from the SLVRLining plot was approximately 1% brix higher for the first two picks than the standard cloth although this difference had disappeared by the third pick when fruit sugar levels were similar.

## Harvest volumes

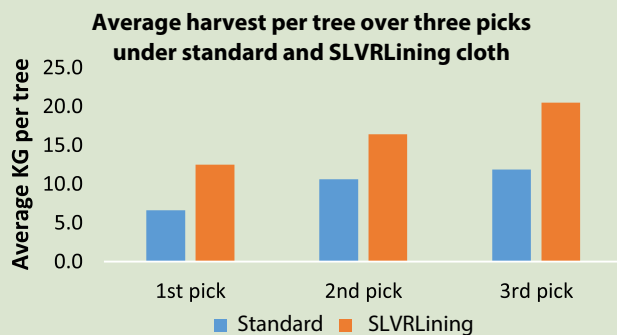
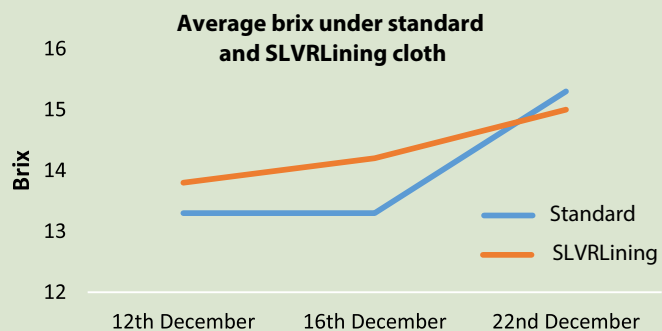
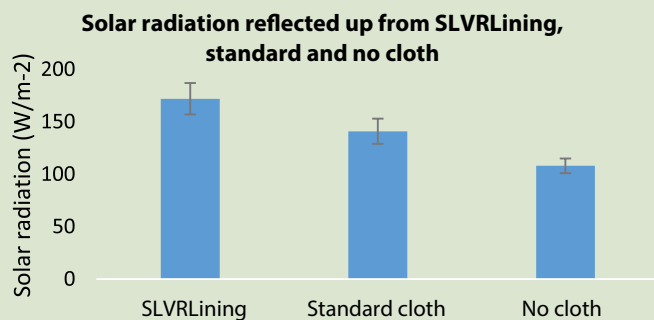
Harvest volumes were recorded for each of the three picks by the harvest supervisor. More fruit was harvested earlier at each recorded pick from the SLVRLining plot than the standard cloth.

After the third pick fruit was too soft and low in blush to sell. The grower thought that more fruit was left behind on the tree after 3 picks in the standard cloth and control plots although this was not measured.

An observation trial of SLVRLining and standard cloth under Rainier cherries was carried out on a commercial cherry orchard in 2016/17.

The un-replicated trial was set up on a single row, with 14 trees being exposed to SLVRLining cloth and 30 trees exposed to standard cloth from the first week of December - approximately 10 days before harvest.

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