

Geoffrey Thompson continues transition into plastics!

How does a major apple and pear packer feel about switching from wood to plastic bins? “After using Nally Megabins for several seasons, I don’t want to deal with anything else” commented Garry Parker, General Manager at Geoffrey Thomas Fruit Packing Company Pty Ltd based in Shepparton.

“When we first trialed the switch from wooden bins to plastic, we were told there would be a number of significant benefits from using plastic bins based on overseas experience – all these benefits played out in our packing operation” added Parker.

A major benefit of plastic bins compared to wooden bins is a reduction in fruit damage. “What we found was that we were able to pack out the same quantity of Class 1 apples from the plastic bin which held about 8% less fruit than our old wooden bins” Parker said. “This is worth a lot of money – especially for our premium apple varieties”

Another cost savings associated with the plastic bins is freight savings. Plastic bins are much lighter and don’t absorb water giving them a constant tare weight. “We found that we were able to legally carry 8 extra plastic bins onto a semi-trailer load. This equates to an extra 1.2 tonne of fruit carried per load”

With the increased ventilation of plastic bins and their ability to be stacked ‘straight as an arrow’, plastic bins are able to be ‘block stacked’ in coolrooms with no gaps between them. “In some coolrooms we were able to get an extra row of plastic bins into the room. This means we are able to store about 4% more fruit in each of these rooms. With the cost of new coolrooms, this is a significant benefit” Parker added.



Garry Parker checks the apple quality in their Nally MegaBins

Other benefits of plastic bins include the fact that they don’t absorb liquid (significant reductions in drench useage), handling and cooling efficiencies and less fruit shrinkage.

Viscount Plastic’s staff told us we would notice an improvement in our operation when we used the Nally Megabins. And they were right. There are dozens of reasons why we went with these bins. And we are pleased that the positive results we anticipated are being realised,” concluded Parker.

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