MaxCel® Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **What is MaxCel?**
   A NEW apple fruitlet (post-bloom) thinning agent.

2. **What is the active ingredient in MaxCel?**
   MaxCel contains 6-Benzyladenine (6-BA), a cytokinin-type plant growth regulator (PGR) that induces cell division.

3. **Is MaxCel like other thinning agents?**
   No. In addition to thinning, MaxCel also stimulates fruit growth. This results in increased fruit size above that which would be expected from the thinning effect alone.

4. **How is MaxCel different from other thinning agents?**
   MaxCel is an improved, second-generation PGR containing pure 6-BA. It has a unique, superior formulation for better performance.

5. **Has MaxCel been tested in the field?**
   Yes. The active ingredient in the MaxCel formulation has been thoroughly researched as a thinning compound for over 20 years. MaxCel has been extensively field tested since 2000. MaxCel has also been used commercially in over 10 countries since 2004.

6. **Which apple varieties can I treat with MaxCel?**
   All apple varieties may be treated with MaxCel.

7. **What are the benefits of MaxCel?**
   MaxCel is a key component of a thinning and sizing program for most apple cultivars. Due to its growth promoting action, it will increase fruit size beyond the direct thinning effect, or even when thinning is inadequate. MaxCel also increases return bloom and reduces alternate bearing.

8. **What is the mode of action of MaxCel?**
   From bloom through fruit set, the demand for energy exceeds supply. MaxCel shifts the sink / source relationship enhancing competition between fruit and vegetative growth. This causes the lateral (weakest) fruit to be shed and king (strongest) fruit to remain.

9. **What is the application window for MaxCel?**
   Timing: 7 - 15 mm fruit size (optimum 10 - 12 mm).
10. **Does MaxCel work in any type of weather?**
   Temperature is very important. Apply MaxCel when day temperatures will be 18˚C or above for 2-3 days after application. MaxCel normally performs better with an upward temperature gradient.

11. **What is the recommended dose rate of MaxCel?**
    Use Rate: 100 - 150 ppm (500 - 750 ml / 100L)
    Rate / Ha: 5 - 7.5 L/ha, based on 1000 L/ha. Rate is depending on variety, temperature, thinning program and desired thinning effect. Lower temperatures reduce effectiveness. *(Discuss dose rates with your local MaxCel representative.)*

12. **Do I need to use high spray volumes per hectare to apply MaxCel?**
    No. Spray MaxCel in a sufficient amount of water to ensure coverage of fruits and leaves without excessive runoff. Water volumes of 1,000 L / Ha typically provide good results.

13. **How long should I expect to wait to observe the MaxCel thinning response?**
    MaxCel’s benefits can be observed within 10-20 days following treatment.

14. **Is MaxCel compatible with IPM programs?**
    Yes. The active ingredient in MaxCel is a naturally occurring plant growth regulator and will not alter the ecological balance in the orchard.

15. **Can I use other thinning agents when I use MaxCel?**
    MaxCel is normally used in a thinning program with bloom and fruitlet thinners.

16. **Can I tank mix MaxCel with NAA?**
    Yes. MaxCel can be tank mixed with NAA where more aggressive thinning is required.

17. **Will MaxCel cause “pygmy fruit” in susceptible varieties?**
    No. MaxCel does not cause pigmy fruit. In tank mix combinations with NAA on certain varieties or late applications, NAA can cause some pygmy fruit.

18. **Can MaxCel be used with Regulex® or Promalin® in fruit size, russetting control and thinning programs?**
    Yes. MaxCel can be used in combination with Regulex or Promalin to increase fruit size, reduce russet and enhance thinning.

19. **Do I need to use an adjuvant (surfactant, wetting agent, etc.) with MaxCel?**
    No. Adjuvants are not necessary.

20. **Is MaxCel cost-effective?**
    Yes. In most orchards, MaxCel improves fruit size and pack-out beyond the thinning effect. A small shift in fruit size categories will more than pay for the investment in MaxCel. MaxCel also improves return bloom and reduces hand-thinning time (costs).