

Potentially widespread applications for novel CA storage

One of the most interesting aspects of the National Fruit Show is that it provides an opportunity for new products and technologies to be brought to the attention of growers. Janny MT, a Lyon, France based storage technology company, specialising in cold, controlled atmosphere storage units, is one such example.

Thibault Marconnet brought sample bins to the Show and revealed a plastic, air-tight container of similar dimensions to a bulk bin, suitable for all types of fruit and vegetables. Each bin was capable of maintaining a modified atmosphere at low temperatures with minimal weight loss for produce in what Thibault said was a completely natural environment.

The construction of the bin allowed gas exchange to occur, with CO₂ leaving the bin via a membrane, and oxygen entering via ports in the outer wall. "It is easily possible to maintain a gas regime of 1% to 5% oxygen

in each bin, which, when held at 0C to 5C kept produce in very good condition for a long period of time," he said.

Thibault Marconnet is confident that the investment in this type of storage container has a rapid payback period and, whilst it was very suitable for apples and pears, the container was readily applicable to stone fruits, especially cherries and plums. "We have one progressive cherry grower in Kent already successfully employing this technology,"

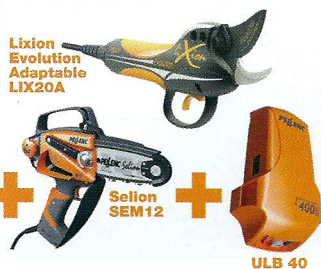
added Thibault. "We are confident that an additional 25 days of cherry storage can be gained using the system, and up to eight months for apples and pears".

Each unit costs around 300 Euros with a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years, and he was confident that they had a real role to play in extending the season of supply for certain crops, as well as giving flexibility to storage of smaller volumes, from 1 to 100 tonnes, of other fruits.



Thibault Marconnet of Janny MT is confident that his modified atmosphere storage bins can improve the availability of various fruit crops, especially stone fruits, and give a rapid payback.

VITIBOX PROMOTION



Normal Price **£2658** inc VAT

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