

Aid to assessment of thinning need

For each variety, if more than 50% of buds are floral, first decide which GROUP is appropriate, then considering each factor, award a score accordingly. If desirable, a personal score system may be developed with experience of individual orchards.

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C
Strongly biennial varieties.	Young trees, vigorous varieties	Weakly biennial Michelin
Tremletts, Somerset	Browns Apple	Dabinett
Redstreak, Vilberie etc	Sweet Coppin	Harry Masters
Thinning is not normally recommended for this group.	Yarlington Mill	Chisel Jersey
	Old trees of Michelin and Dabinett	

ORCHARD SCORE	SCORE	YOUR ORCHARD
1] Soil type	Grade 1/good 2 4 Grade 2/3 2	
2] Tree condition	Poor/fair/good 1-7	
3] Past crop record	Yields reducing 0 Biennial 2 Yields rising 5	
4] Last year's crop	Heavy 1-4 Moderate 5-7 Light – off 8-10	
5] Harvesting date	Late/mature 1 Early/immature 2-3	
6] Weak blossom	Omit NAA	
WEATHER		
7] Autumn	Short/cool/long/warm 1-5	
8] Prolonged winter wet	grade 1 -1 grade 2/3 -4	
9] Spring abnormally warm	-1	
10] Severe frost after bud burst	-4 -8	

SCORE

12 or more	Spray Carbaryl + NAA at petal fall. Reassess after 10 days. Repeat if more than 50% of clusters bear fruit
8 – 12	Group C. Wait 10 days. Assess fruit-set before spray as above.
8 -12	Weak blossom. Omit NAA from petal fall spray.
Less than 8	No thinning required.