

## **EXPLORING A NEW WAY TO START CHERRIES ON THE PATH TO PEAK PRODUCTION**

A complement to Dormex is showing promise for helping combat a common problem for California cherry growers. University of California research has evaluated a nutritional approach to countering moderately warm winters and the negative impact on factors such as bloom, fruit set, and maturity.

Erger® G, a nitrogen fertilizer that's combined with calcium nitrate or First Choice® BudBreak™, is a new option for promoting uniform fruit flowering and fruit set, increasing the potential for uniform fruit ripening, better quality, and an earlier harvest.

### How It Works

Applying Erger with BudBreak **40 to 50 days before** buds start to swell gives trees a boost once chilling hours reach the minimum needed to break dormancy. Foliar treatment fills a void when environmental conditions are less than optimum for flower and fruit development.

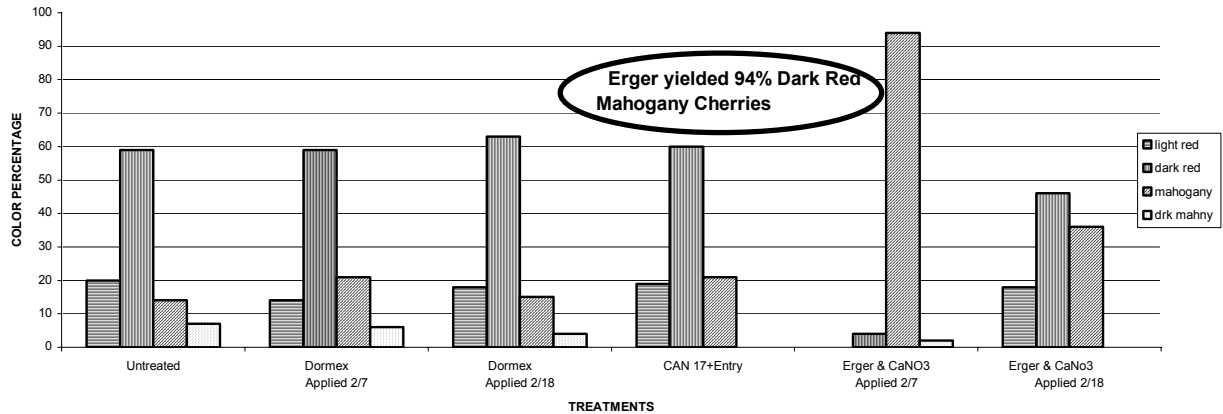
Erger keeps trees from prematurely using up nutrient reserves when chilling hours accumulate slowly. Combining Erger with BudBreak provides calcium cations that act as a carrier for nitrogen uptake to help promote optimum flowering and fruit development.

### Test Results

Developed and used in Europe, Erger is being introduced in California after undergoing extensive tests. Though it's *not* a plant growth regulator like hydrogen cyanamide, UC trials showed that Erger plus calcium is comparable to other rest-breaking agents in advancing and compressing bloom, hastening maturity, and producing uniform fruit color (see chart on back). Other evaluations showed good fruit firmness with no differences in soluble solids and acids.

## Color Rating

Bing on Colt  
5/30/00  
Winters, CA.  
Dr. Steve Southwick, UC Davis



### Practical To Use

A rate structure tied to specific spray volumes is clearly spelled out on the Erger G label and includes required amounts of calcium nitrate or CAN 17.

### Spray Volume Calculations For Cherries\*

Spray Volume, Gals/Acre:	95	100	110	120	130	150	200
Erger G, Gals/Acre	5.7	6.0	6.6	7.2	7.8	9.0	12.0
Calcium Nitrate, Lb./Acre:	79.2	83.3	91.7	100.0	108.3	125.0	166.7
BudBreak, Gals/Acre:	3.75	3.95	4.34	4.74	5.13	5.92	7.88

\*Always apply Erger G with BudBreak. The Erger G dose and water must be applied as a *total solution*. Example: If you apply a 95 gallon mix per acre, the total volume of Erger, plus calcium nitrate or BudBreak should be 95 gallons per acre.

### Crop Safety And Spray Timing

Erger has no adverse effect on trees, but *must be applied* 40 to 50 days before buds begin to swell. The recommended timing window is designed to avoid phytotoxicity to buds and prevent premature exhaustion of nutrient reserves producing more consistent results.

### Tank Mixes and Restrictions

Erger G is formulated for tank mixing with BudBreak. Do not mix with, adjuvants, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, zinc, copper, organic nitrogen compounds or petroleum oils. Allow at least 30 days between applications of Erger and an oil application (or an organic nitrogen compound). Do not apply Erger to trees that are under stress or less than three years old.

### Other Registrations

Besides cherries, Erger G is labeled for wine grapes, table grapes and apples. A companion material, Erger D, is labeled for peaches and apricots.

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Bud Break is a trademark of Western Farm Service, Inc.

Erger is a registered trademark of Nutrecology.

Dormex is a registered trademark of SKW Trostberg AG