

WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF BANDED FRUIT TREES

By Fred Field

I have researched this principle over a period of 3 years on various fruit trees and the results have been very favourable, hereunder in lay terms is the cause and effect of banding...

1. By banding the tree or branches does not have an immediate effect. After 8 to 9 months the Woodstock will expand into the band this will in turn put pressure on the cambium which is a thin sheathing meristem located between the xylem (wood) and phloem (inner bark).

The pressure thus restricts the amount of water and mineral uptake from the root system. If we also look at the top of the tree tips they produce Auxin which is a sort of messenger that can activate increased root production, again the band by compressing the cell structure has the effect of blocking messages. By banding higher up the tree will reduce the amount of carbohydrates that can be used to provide food for wood and fruit production. Whilst this will stop the production of growth above the band it does put pressure below that point, which in turn will force new growth to appear from blind buds which abound on all trees. This is quite useful for rejuvenating old trees and reforming a lower spreading structure to increase productivity...

Some trees such as pear trees have natural pressure put on the cambium area the weight of the fruit pulls the branch down in a semicircle, which increases the pressure on the cambium and xylem, thus restricting its ability to supply nutrient and water, (this have been verified by dissection of branches and studied).

It is important to leave the band on for a minimum of 7 years then possibly having tree rebanded again. It has also been shown that trees restricted in some mechanical form after 7 to 8 years to now remain small, this is the trees ability to realise its situation is precarious and will concentrate on reproducing good quality fruit to save the species and the bonus to this is they become very disease resistance