



# **Pollination Enhancement & Introduction to Vericet**

# Controlled Pollination: A Brief Overview



Harvest, Storage, Application



Factors Limiting Pollination



Trials and Grower Experience

Pollen is Harvested from Certified Orchards.



Most blossoms are hand-picked (APPLE, CHERRY, PEAR, KIWI, ETC)



Hand-Thinning of

Cherry Blossoms

Blossoms are  
picked at 'popcorn'  
phase for  
maximum viability



Cherries, Near Pasco, WA



Pollen is Harvested from Certified Orchards.



Almonds Near Hughson, CA

Some Blossoms are Machine Harvested (ALMOND, WALNUT)



Blossoms Collected and

Ready for Processing

Blossoms are shredded

Anther Sacs are removed

Dehydration releases pollen



Cherry Blossoms, Near Linden, CA





Pollen Dried and

Ready for Packaging

## MEASURES OF POLLEN QUALITY

### VIABILITY

CAN THE POLLEN GRAIN SUCCESSFULLY GROW A POLLEN TUBE?

### COMPATIBILITY

IS THE POLLEN OF AN ACCEPTABLE GENOTYPE?

### DISEASE SCREENING

FREE OF PNRSV, CLRV, TRSV, AMV, ETC?



Pollen is Always Stored

**FROZEN**

And Kept Frozen Until Just Prior To Use

## POLLEN APPLICATION (2 METHODS):

BEEHIVE DISPENSER



BLOWER APPLICATOR





## Beehive Application



- **Efficient**
- **Uses less material**
- **Bees deliver to blossoms**
- **Some leakage to nearby blocks**

The applicator places dry pollen in the beehive dispenser during hours of high bee activity.

## Blower Application



- Applied directly to *your* trees
- More control of application timing
- Bees redistribute pollen in orchard
- Requires a carrier

Pollen is applied 2-3 times during the most vigorous bloom.



## FACTORS LIMITING SUCCESSFUL POLLINATION AND FERTILIZATION

POOR POLLINIZER OVERLAP

LIGHT POLLINIZER BLOOM

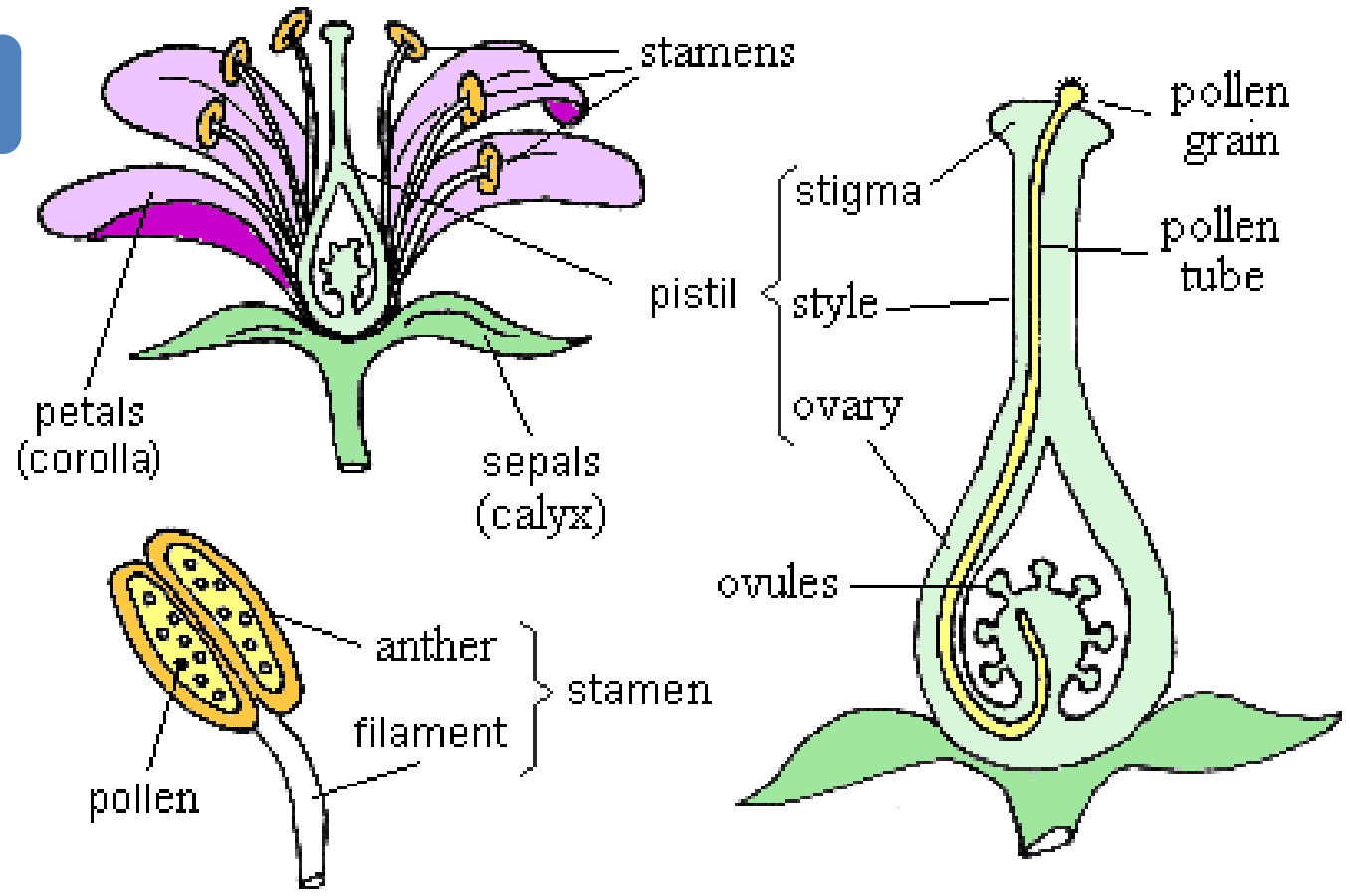
POOR AMBIENT POLLEN VIABILITY

COOL TEMPS DURING BLOOM

INCOMPATIBLE SOURCE POLLEN

SUBOPTIMAL NUTRITION IN PISTIL TISSUES

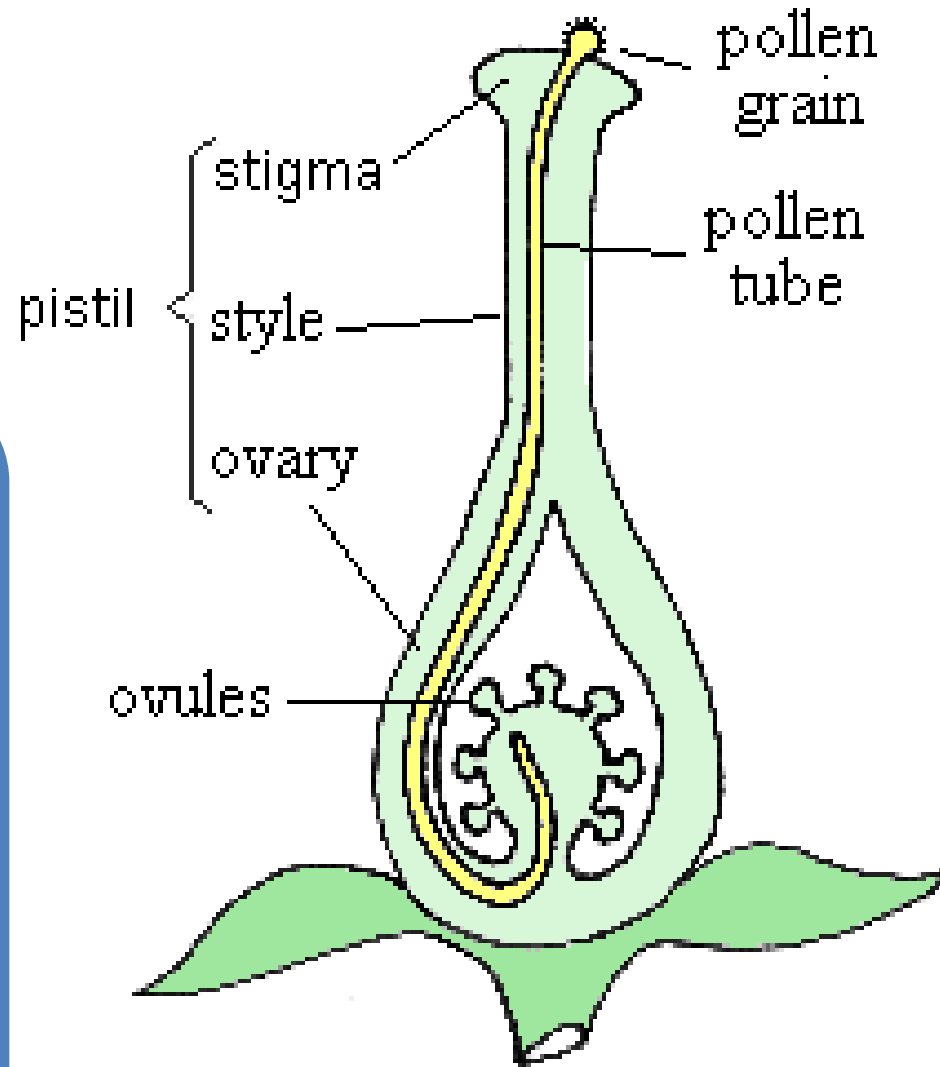
TYPICAL FLOWER



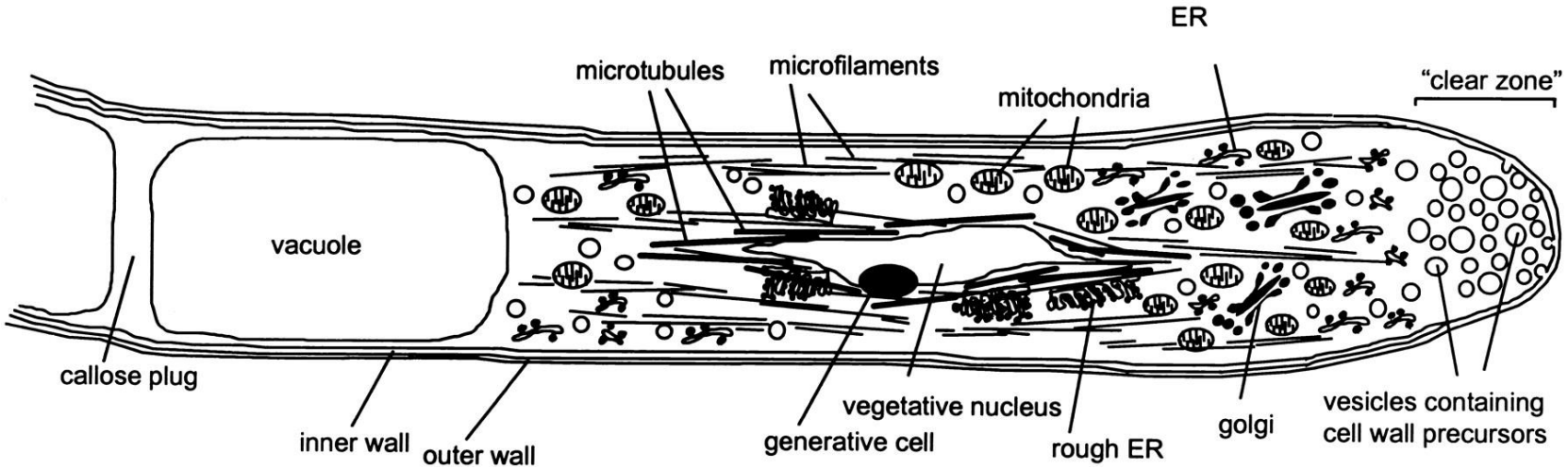


## Typical Pistil

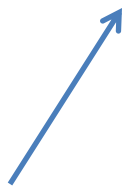
- Incompatible pollen won't begin germination
- Pollen tubes with poor nutrition will grow slow, or irregularly.
- Cool Temps can critically slow tube growth



# The Pollen Tube



Nutrient uptake in this apical region is critical to the rapid and accurate growth of a high-integrity pollen tube. This process depends on a ready supply of specific nutritional components, and a rich source of carbon.



## Typical Carriers

Inert

Used only to dilute material for machine application.



# **V E R I C E T**

*Brings Pollination to Life*

Balanced Minerals

Carbon Units

Metabolic Accelerators

Increased Enzyme  
Function

Easy Pick up/Delivery By  
Bees

Hygroscopic





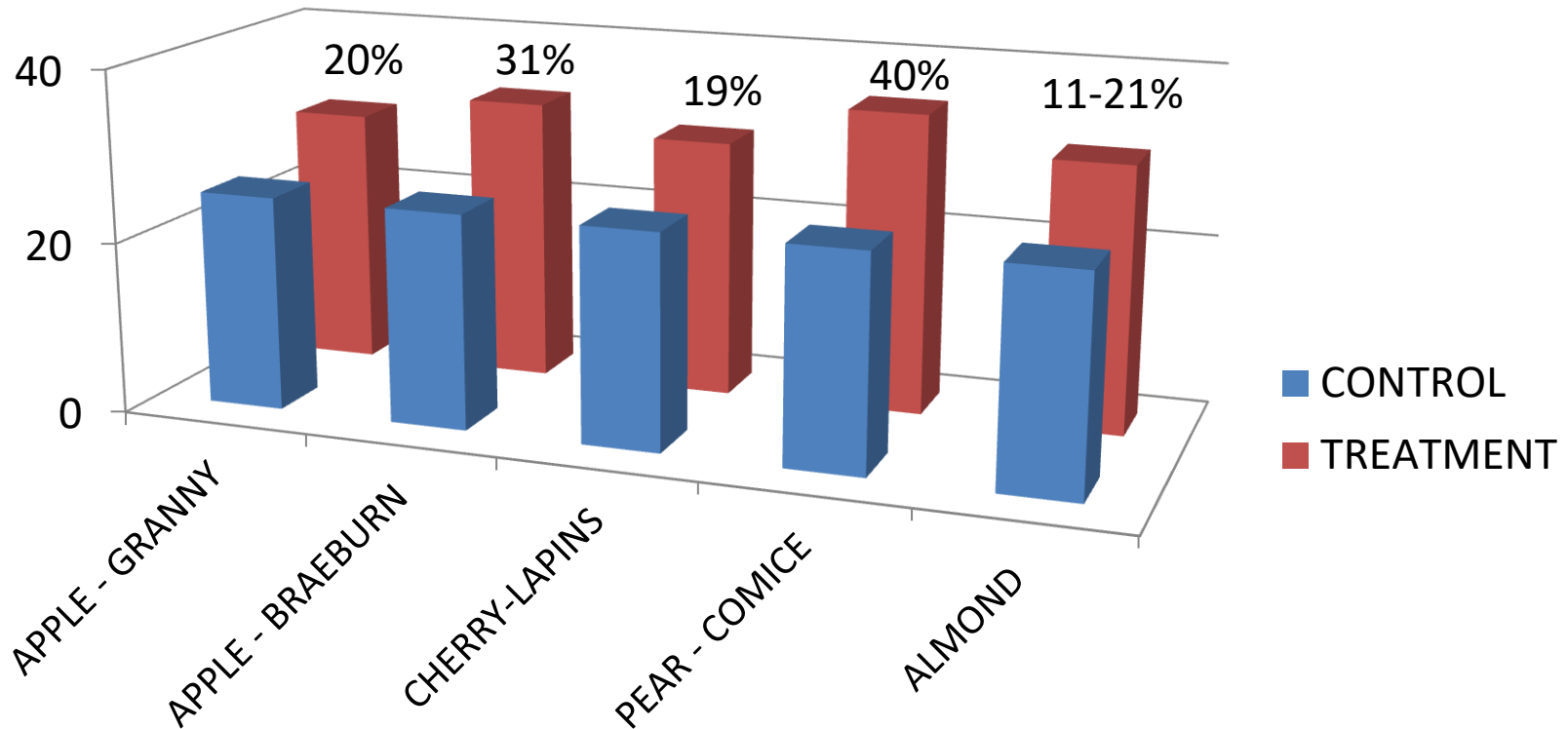
Creates  
*Accurate*  
Pollen Tube  
Growth

Creates  
*Rapid*  
Pollen Tube  
Growth

Improves  
Receptivity  
of the Ovules

## Antles Pollen

Trial Results with Pollen Plus Our Nutrient-Based Carrier.



- Applications were made with Gold product: Pollen 60g/acre; Carrier 180g/acre.
- Materials were cut in half and applied on two separate days with bloom state between 30-60% petal opening.
- Materials were applied with a blower unit mounted on a small orchard vehicle.
- All trials except almond were replicated trials. Almond was a paired-block trial.
- Trials were conducted during the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015 seasons in Washington, California and New Zealand.

## Return On Investment

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### Sweet Cherries

5 US ton/Acre Crop at a price of \$40/box:



≤ 1% increase in production covers the cost of the program.





*Antles* BRAND  
POLLEN SUPPLIES, INC.  
EST. 1929

**Thank You!**

