

VOEN ANTIFROST HEATER 2.0

A few years after the first version of the VOEN AntiFrost Heater was introduced, VOEN is launching a new generation. It now comes in one piece which makes it much easier to handle in the field as well as during transport and storage. In addition, the new design makes it much quicker to start, and the burning process is so clean that smoke is hardly visible. [Click here for a demo-video.](#)

It makes the AntiFrost Heater a perfect option for frost protection in tunnels and under covers. Also, in open field protection of high value crops the heater is effective, and especially in vineyards and fruit orchards it has become a sustainable alternative to paraffin candles or gas burners.

The density needed to ensure an optimal frost protection depends on local conditions like topography, minimum temperatures, and crop tolerance. The experiences from the first generation of Anti-Frost VOEN and multiple tests of the new version, indicate a need of app. 35 heaters / ha in covered crops and around 70 in open field.

Consult with your local VOEN Sales Partner or contact the VOEN head-quarter for advice on how to protect your crop from frost during the upcoming Spring.



The VOEN AntiFrost Heater 2.0 is available for immediate delivery

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

While Europe is looking for the first small signs of Spring, the season is peaking in Chile, Australia, and New Zealand which are amongst the main cherry producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere.

We reached out to Cherri Global in **New Zealand** to get a fresh update from the current campaign. Cherri Global orchards are located in Hawkes Bay in the North Island and Central Otago in the South Island where they grow premium cherries for export.

"We still have about two weeks to go before ending this very challenging cherry campaign", says Mark Carrington, General Manager at Cherri Global, and continues: *"The very wet Summer in Hawkes Bay, stronger winds in Otago and occasionally higher temperatures which we experienced this year is an indication of what we can expect in the future, having the ongoing climate change in mind"*. Mark explains that mitigating the risk of extreme weather is a key focus point of Cherry Global, and that the value of rain covers was proven in the last 2 seasons, where growers lost most of their uncovered crops.

Apart from the weather, the disruption of the global supply chain, and labour availability has been the other main challenges this season. *"As we are in a distant corner of the world, the options to get product to and from New Zealand is a major issue"* says Mark Carrington, who was proactive to source materials – including VOEN covers – for the 2021-22 season early enough to have them delivered on time.

Also, shipments of the cherries from New Zealand to the main markets in Asia have been very difficult to plan. Airfreight space in the Covid world is a major challenge, but the freight partners of Cherri Global have worked hard to keep the shipments moving.

"Despite these extra challenges, we have had a good season with high-quality fruits from our covered orchards", summarizes Mark Carrington.



Availability of labour has been another challenge during this years campaign, says Mark Carrington, Cherri Global.

AUSTRALIA is another important producer of cherries in this period. On the mainland the production is split between exports and the domestic market, whereas in Tasmania the focus is on export to Asia. To ensure a stable production of high-quality fruits, many growers in Tasmania are using VOEN covers.

“Especially this year it has been crucial to protect against cracking, as Tasmania has experienced a very wet spring and summer” says Sam Bush, VOEN Sales Partner Australia / New Zealand. *“50-70 mm of rain per day at multiple occasions just before and during the harvest season negatively impacted the uncovered crops. Luckily the covered crops have managed the severe weather, and here the yield and quality look promising”*

And finally an update from **CHILE**, which is the largest cherry producing country in the world. The mild climate along the very long coast-line is optimal for fruit production, and the variation in earliness from North to South enables harvest of cherries from November till February.



According to Roberto Johow, the quality from Chile has been excellent this season

“The 2021-22 crop harvest is coming to an end. The weather conditions have been good, helping the growers to obtain an outstanding quality with large sizes and excellent color in most of the varieties”, says Roberto Johow, VOEN Sales Partner Chile.

Roberto explains that the initial forecast of 387.000 tons for this season has been corrected to an estimation of 361.000 tons, due to a lower fruit set.

There are many reasons for the lower

fruit sets, depending on water supply on each growing area, agricultural management and overall crop performance. However, the key driver on this season for most of the growers was to obtain higher sizes with excellent overall quality.