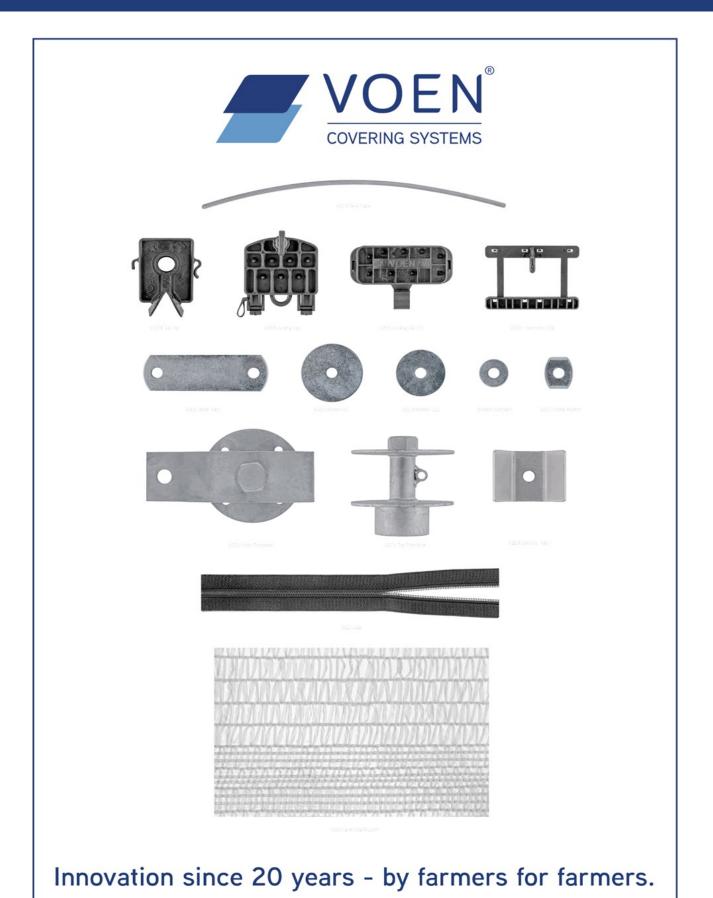


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VOEN celebrates 20 years anniversary

This year it is 20 years ago Reinhard Vöhringer invented the unique self-venting VOEN covers. The inspiration came to him one night during a heavy storm. The wind was so strong that the roof tiles started lifting a few millimeters. The next day the wind calmed down. The roof was still there, and the idea of the VOEN covers with the flexible plastic flaps was born.



VOEN Global Sales Partners

After an intense period of product-development, the final concept was ready, and very quickly it helped growers in multiple countries to protect their crop from rain and hail. Later it was discovered that the VOEN covers also prevent damage from frost, wind, birds, and insects. And the wind tolerance was proven by fruit and vegetable growers living in some of the most exposed areas around the world.

Today the VOEN Covering System has developed into a complete solution with constructions, covers, hibernation and technical support which is sold to fruit and vegetable

growers in more than 25 countries world-wide. And although the cover itself has been improved over

time, the basic principle is still the same, when tailor made VOEN covers are produced at the factory next to Reinhard's fruit farm in Southern Germany.

Another jubilee - and another one!

At this moment VOEN also congratulates and says "Thank You" to Rainer Weiss and Petra Kempf who have been in the company now for 10 and 15 years — we are very happy to have you with us on this journey covering the needs of our customers and partners! Let's make sure that the years ahead will be successful like the ones that lie behind us and that together we can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves — THANK YOU again!





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Bigger cherries = higher yield

Size of the cherries and price per kg is closely related in most cherry markets. The bigger the fruit, the better the grower is paid for the product. But have you ever considered the impact that fruit size has on the yield of a cherry crop? If you do maths on cherry sizes, it results in the following correlation between fruit diameter and yield

diameter	volume	relative	weight
	mm³	diff.	
26	9'203	100%	8,50 g
28	11'494	125%	10,62 g
30	14.137	154%	13,06 g
32	17.157	186%	15,85 g



The micro-climate below the VOEN covers offers the plants an optimal growing environment. Less stressful, more stable conditions lead to more productive crops. And with no risk of damage from rain, hail or insects, the grower can leave the cherries on the trees till they are completely ripe.

Experiences from growers in multiple climates and growing systems indicate an increase of fruit diameter of at least 2 mm when using VOEN Covers. Potentially this means 25% higher yield - and the increased turnover is even higher, as the value of big caliber cherries is higher.

For more information about the cost / benefits of the VOEN Covering Systems in various crops, please <u>contact your local VOEN Sales Partner</u> or send an E-mail to <u>info@voen.de</u>. Every case is different, and we are ready to calculate the potential revenue of an investment based on your local conditions.



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Riveridge Produce Marketing, Michigan, invests in VOEN Covers

VOEN Covering Systems has entered into a long-term collaboration with Riveridge Produce Marketing to develop an innovative and high-quality cherry production for the US East Coast market.

Read more about the strategic considerations behind the investments done by Riveridge and the background of choosing VOEN as their partner for crop covers:

Saving sweet cherries | Good Fruit Grower



Reinhard Voehringer and Jakob Fausboell explain the principle of the self-ventilating cover to Justin Finkler, Operations Manager, Riveridge Produce Marketing



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Organic blueberries covered in Denmark

To protect the organic blueberries from rain during harvest, and to minimize the risk of diseases attacking the plants, Kaj Nedergaard Jepsen from Halskensbjerg Organics installed his first VOEN cover on a 4 ha block in spring 2022. The cover was built on a VOEN steel construction, and it was installed with zip and insect net to protect from Drosophila Suzukii and other insects.

Spring 2022 was very challenging with more than 20 frost events in the critical phase from middle of April to end of May. Unfortunately, the covers were not yet installed when the frost set in, so the VOEN field suffered like the rest of the farm from serious frost damage. "It was an extreme spring, and our wind-mills and sprinklers were not sufficient to save the whole crop", Kaj explains. "Next year we plan to open the VOEN cover early April to prevent damages in this block."



Kaj Nedergaard Jepsen is growing and packing organic as well as conventional blueberries for the Danish retail market.



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Despite the difficult start of 2022, the first experiences with the VOEN Cover were positive. "We had clearly a lower disease pressure below the covers. Drosophila was in general less of an issue in our area, but bigger flies which can be just as devastating were kept out of the field due to the insect net. It increased our total pack-out compared to the open field blocks" Kaj says.

The weather in Denmark can be unpredictable, and often growers are tempted to harvest high value crops early before the next rain occurs. A covered crop can be harvested irrespective of the weather conditions, which makes it much easier to organize labor and to optimize yield and quality. For Kaj the plan is clear: "We will have a dedicated team of pickers working constantly under the cover every day. It will increase efficiency, and we will be able to supply the high-end retailers with a stable quality and quantity throughout the season".

VOEN is constantly improving the solutions for blueberries and other crops, and recently a new cover layout to **promote earliness** has been developed. The first data and more technical details will be available in the **next VOEN Newsletter**.

Upcoming events



Die internationale Fachmesse für Erwerbsobstbau, Destillation und Agrartechnik.

13.–15. Januar 2023 Messe Friedrichshafen



TARGI SADOWNICTWA





15. Februar 2023 bis 16. Februar 2023

