

## **Tandem axle Fructair debuts at M A Bunting:**

### **In for the long haul.**

Growing some of the country's favourite apples and pears is a long term commitment for M A Bunting Ltd, a dedicated ASDA packhouse at Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire.

Similarly they do not swap machinery for the sake of it. So when they replaced their trailed sprayer which had completed twenty five years service, they did their homework. Having seen Berthoud's latest Fructair orchard fruit sprayer demonstrated on a neighbour's orchards last year, they carefully compared what else was on the market before placing an order for their 2000 litre capacity Fructair, the first tandem axle model in the UK.

Managing Director Alec Kitching joined the company as an apprentice forty years ago when M A Bunting grew just 9 hectares of fruit. Now they have around 80 hectares of Bramley apples, 20 hectares of Conference pears and a further 10 of dessert varieties and plums.

“ We really liked the 1000 litre model we saw at the demonstration” he explains, “but felt we needed the larger model whose twin axles mean better weight distribution and little compaction. We've never been frightened to try something different and early results have been good. Our old sprayer was becoming increasingly expensive and had cost us several thousands of pounds to maintain and upgrade to current standards. The new Berthoud has been fitted with the latest RDS controller which is really simple to set up with the required application rate. We have been applying Cuprokult for canker and scab control. With the market demanding minimal residues it ensures we have complete accuracy of application and full traceability.”

M A Bunting's Fruitier has a compact, profiled polyethylene body designed to pass through orchards with minimal damage and a 900mm reverse fan which draws clean air onto the fan, reducing the risk of blockages from foliage. It was supplied by their local sprayer specialists Boston Crop Sprayers of Wisbech.

Caption: Andrew Howlett of Boston Crop Sprayers and Alec Kitching check some early buds on the company's Bramleys.