



Kaolin Clay as Cider Clarifier?

Posted by [Brittany Kordick](#)

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[Brittany Kordick](#)

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September 29, 2023 09:21PM

Registered: 4 years ago

Posts: 211

We don't use Surround in our orchard as much as we'd like to, given that it is so hard for us to remove from fruit, even after only a couple early season applications. However, as we sell more and more fruit to hard cider makers, we're finding that kaolin clay residue may not be an issue the way it is for dessert fruit, since the clay may be removed efficiently via filtering and racking. Thinking about this, we got to wondering if kaolin clay residue might actually be beneficial in any way during the cidermaking process. Sure, it's a different animal from bentonite clay, used to bind with proteins that cause haze in wines/ciders, and since kaolin possesses no net electrical charge, it would not bind with junk the way that negatively charged bentonite does. But any other reasons one might welcome kaolin clay-treated fruit in one's cider? Apart from potential usefulness, any strong opinions for or against kaolin clay-treated cider fruit?

[Kordick Family Farm](#)

Westfield, NC

Zone 7a

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[Gil Schieber](#)

[Re: Kaolin Clay as Cider Clarifier?](#)

October 10, 2023 07:30PM

Registered: 7 years ago

Posts: 5

I have used Kaolin Clay (kc?) for 5 years. As a minimalist, one spray on AM first siting-usually the first week of July. AM suppression is 85%, that is all I concern myself with. All other blemishes, insect wounds are insufficiently worth the trouble. We press a lot of cider and the residue is never washed off completely nor do we have scrubbers or washing apparatuses. Though by October the few rains have removed most of the residue-enough to pick by color. Clouding or settling out particulates in jams' and ciders has not been observed to be different. Suppression of insects now for 5 years I chose not to spray this year - a 'test year'. Recording AM damage on 500 apple varieties is a daunting project but I'm up for it. Skiplely farm excel file is growing! No differences in cider this year, our test year, from last. Im posting to contribute practices. KC has recovered the farm from 1 star reviews to 5 I depend on it. I also refuse Spinosad as a go-to for control though hot spots (high population) will get a dose from year to year. Any other folks out there that have AM issues please add to this.

Gil Schieber of Skiplely Farm Snohomish, Washington (western cascades).

Skiplely Farm 500 varieties, wet spring, clayloam, 1900 gdd, AM,CM, Anthracnose, 20 rootstocks, Seedling Apples, Nursery business 50 years. Excel-

my.sharepoint.com/:x:/p/gil/EcvdyToBAjxEqqSo180osVgBp5QUoWF-5I8e0RDhDhmkdA?e=kkJaZZ

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