

Le Jardin de Rabelais

Le Jardin de Rabelais is the latest tomato producer to realise the productivity benefits of a Marco YCM Yield Control packhouse system at their Avoine operation in the Loire Valley, central France. Specialising in cherry and vine tomatoes, Le Jardin de Rabelais grow and pack products seven days a week, all year round.

The YCM system installed at Avoine, consisting of eight LineMaster weigh-pack stations and twenty table scales, also includes a high speed labelling system and end of line soft accumulator conveyor. Packhouses around the world have achieved exceptional productivity improvements of up to 30% by installing YCM systems. The YCM effectively deskills the manual packing operation, reducing waste and virtually eliminating giveaway/overpack. This directly translates into improved profitability and rapid return on investment for the Marco system.



To simplify and deskill the packing process, a simple segmented light array* on the LineMaster weighing scale shows the operator when the target weight is reached for each pack. Minimal training is required and packers soon tune into the system, simply packing to the 'accept' light. The YCM incorporates Marco's innovative AO (Automatic Optimization) software. This runs quietly in the background, constantly checking each and every pack weight. Unbeknown to the packer, the system continually fine tunes target weights at each station to ensure giveaway is virtually eradicated.

The latest YCM provides packhouse managers with important dynamic data reporting, clearly highlighting individual operator performance in terms of packs per hour, average

giveaway and also whether erroneous repeat weighings are occurring, as a result of operators attempting to weigh the same pack more than once to improve their productivity.

Le Jardin de Rabelais' Managing Director Mr Delahaye is impressed with the Marco system: "The high speed manual packing of tomatoes presents a number of challenges. Marco's YCM has overcome these for our operation and the uplift of productivity has made a significant improvement to our packing operation."

*This concept has now been developed further to encompass Marco's ingenious 'one light one fruit', operator display. Each light segment on the visual light display represents a single fruit. This feature significantly increases the speed of the packing process and is ideal when the fresh produce being packed in a particular batch run has consistent proportions. For Le Jardin de Rabelais, the YCM terminals have been pre-programmed to store different types and weights of tomato, making pack line changes very simple and rapid. As pre-packed tomatoes travel down the packing line, they are placed on the scale and then operators are visually prompted to 'add' or 'take out' individual fruits to ensure pack weight compliance.

To learn more about Le Jardin de Rabelais [click here](#)



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