

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO ADD FRUIT PURÉE?



ADDING DRUMS

When you get to a certain point in production of fruit beers you will start to order drums. They are a bit tricky to deal with if you have not used them before. What you will need is something like a “bulldog” racking cane and a hose to reach a pump that goes to the tank on the other end. This “bulldog” can be found in most breweries that do a lot of fruited beers and also have a barrel program or at least a few barrels to play around with. This is a great investment because it has multiple uses.

LET'S TALK PUMPS

There are two types of pumps that you will typically find in a brewery or just about any beverage manufacturer. There are centrifugal pumps and diaphragm pumps. A centrifugal pump is powered by a motor which requires electricity. A diaphragm pump is powered using compressed air. While both of them will get the job done, sometimes one is better than the other. A centrifugal pump is typically used to C.I.P.(clean in place) fermentation and brite tanks or move liquid. When adding fruit to a tank or removing yeast a diaphragm pump is often used. The reason a centrifugal pump is not ideal for adding fruit puree is because it will easily cavitate (lose flow due to an empty pump). It also allows more dissolved oxygen into the liquid because sometimes the mechanical seal will leak

slightly. The diaphragm pump is advantageous because it reduces dissolved oxygen and into the pump itself. Also it will never backflow due to the “ball” on the top of the pump. The fruit puree itself is much easier to pump as well.

PROCESS

The process can vary from place to place. If you plan for it and have tank space the best way is to fill an empty tank with puree that has been cleaned, sanitized and purged of oxygen. First, inspect the bag to make sure it is not swollen or punctured (if so, do not use and contact Remove the cap with your official AFP Aseptic Fruit Purees opener. Hook up to empty tank and blow out sanitizer with CO₂ pressure from the tank (if tank is full, blow out sanitizer with CO₂ line)).

Insert sanitized racking tool or “bulldog” so the “bung fitting” is tight around the mouth of the large bag. You can also add a quick disconnect as well directly to the pump. Then, set all your valves to the empty tank. If the tank is full no worries because it will not backflow due to the design of the pump. It is helpful to have a sight glass to make sure the puree is flowing. Turn on the air to your diaphragm pump, it may take a minute or two to prime the pump. You will notice the bag slowly shrinking, that is how you know that no air is getting into the bag. Continue this process until the bag is empty.

ATTENTION:

AVOID OXYGEN
AT ANY TIME

