

Original Research Article

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## Effect of Growth Regulators on Yield and Quality of Sweet Orange (*Citrus sinensis* L. Osbeck.) cv. Jaffa

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Growth regulators,  
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An experiment was conducted to study the effect of different growth regulators on yield and quality of sweet orange cv. Jaffa at Research Orchard of Department of Horticulture, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India during the year 2015-16. Plants were treated with GA<sub>3</sub>, 2,4-D and NAA in different concentrations was sprayed twice, i.e., in last week of March and first week of July and control (distilled water) yield and physico-chemical changes was observed at regular intervals. The experimental design was randomized block design (RBD) and each treatment was replicated four times. Experimental findings revealed that, among the growth regulators NAA 20 ppm recorded with highest number of fruits per plant and fruit yield per plant than other treatments. It was observed that quality parameters such as TSS (°Brix) (9.87), TSS to acid ratio (15.10), Ascorbic acid (51.44 mg/100 ml) was found to be more in 2,4-D- 15 ppm followed by NAA- 30 ppm. It proved the effectiveness of growth regulators in increasing yield and quality of sweet orange.

### Introduction

Citrus is one of the most important fruit tree species in the world as well as India, as the fruits are a valuable source of nutrients, vitamins and other antioxidant compounds. Sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis* Osbeck.) has been reported to be originated in Southern China and migrated to India during thirteenth century. Sweet orange is the second largest citrus fruit cultivated in the country. It is more convenient to grow under dry arid conditions coupled with distinct winter and summer season with low rainfall. Many varieties of

sweet orange have been introduced in India, while only few are prolific bearer having good quality. Currently, exotic cultivars like Jaffa, Blood Red and Pineapple are performing well in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Among exotic cultivars, Jaffa is an important commercial cultivar of sweet orange. It is one of the mid-season cultivars of sweet orange with wider adaptability.

Fruit drop in citrus crops is a serious problem and a limiting factor for obtaining increased fruit yield. In citrus, there is heavy flowering, and initially, fruit set is high but continuous

dropping of fruits at various stages of fruit growth results in considerable reduction in total yield. Citrus trees produce a very large number of flowers, 30-150 times more than they can bear the fruits Huchche *et al.*, 2012). Due to heavy production of flowers, a high post setting drop of fruit lets is occurred and growers are not much concern about this drop (Huchche *et al.*, 2012).

It is estimated that the fruit drop in citrus cultivars commencing from August continues up to the end of December. In sweet orange cultivars, the total estimated drop of 57.2, 47.6, 48.5, 48.6, 54.9 and 34.5 percent in cultivar Mosambi, Pineapple, Hamlin, Jaffa, Blood Red and Valencia, respectively was recorded by Jawanda *et al.*, (1972).

The use of plant growth regulators has become an important component in the field of citriculture because of the wide range of potential roles they play in increasing the productivity of crop per unit area.

The plant growth regulating compounds actively regulate the growth and development by regulation of the endogenous processes and there exogenous applications have been exploited for modifying the growth response. Hence, the present study was undertaken, with the following objective, to determine the effect of growth regulators on yield and quality of sweet orange cultivar Jaffa.

## **Materials and Methods**

A field experiment entitled effect of plant growth regulators on sweet orange was carried out in the year 2015-16 at the orchard of Department of Horticulture, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with 10 treatments, viz. (T1) GA3 10 ppm, (T2) GA3 20 ppm, (T3) GA3 30 ppm, (T4) 2,4-D 5ppm, (T5) 2,4-D 10 ppm, (T6)

2,4-D 15 ppm, (T7) NAA 20 ppm (T8) NAA 30 ppm (T9) NAA 40 ppm and (T10) (control) i.e. water spray.

There were two spray schedules i.e. last week of March and first week of July). Sixteen years old uniformly grown trees spaced at 6 m x 6 m were selected for present study. They were kept under uniform conditions of orchard management during the study period where all the agronomic practices were carried out as per package of practices. Spraying was done as per the treatment early in the morning. Each tree was sprayed heavily by taking care to wet the complete tree. It was fully ensured that all the sides of the tree were quenched completely by the spraying solutions.

The observations of yield parameters (Number of fruits per tree, Fruit weight and Fruit yield) are taken by harvesting fruits at once and number of fruits per plant was recorded and weigh are taken on electronic balance; physicochemical composition of fruit such as number of seed per fruit, TSS, Acidity, Ascorbic acid are also recorded as protocol. All data were subjected to statistical analysis as per methods advocated by.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Yield parameters**

The data presented in Table 1 shown that the number of fruits per tree was significantly influenced by different concentrations of GA3, 2, 4-D and NAA. The highest number of fruits per tree (246.67), maximum fruit yield (44.32 kg/plant) and maximum fruit retention (86.22%) was recorded from the plant sprayed with NAA 20 ppm while the minimum number of fruits per plant was recorded under control treatment respectively. while the other parameters of fruit like fruit weight (180.00 g) were obtained highest with foliar application of GA3 30 ppm than other treatments.

**Table.1** Effect of growth regulators on yield parameters in sweet orange cv. Jaffa

Treatments	Number of seeds per fruit	Fruit yield (kg/plant)	Fruit weight (g)	Percent fruit retention
T <sub>1</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 10 ppm	7.33	33.23	178.00	80.36
T <sub>2</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 20 ppm	6.00	30.97	179.33	77.04
T <sub>3</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 30 ppm	5.00	29.76	180.00	74.63
T <sub>4</sub> : 2,4-D- 5ppm	8.87	40.16	170.67	83.54
T <sub>5</sub> : 2,4-D- 10 ppm	6.67	41.71	173.33	83.78
T <sub>6</sub> : 2,4-D- 15 ppm	7.67	34.32	169.33	82.16
T <sub>7</sub> : NAA- 20 ppm	8.67	44.32	179.67	86.22
T <sub>8</sub> : NAA- 30 ppm	9.33	40.68	178.67	82.85
T <sub>9</sub> : NAA- 40 ppm	11.33	26.46	174.67	76.35
T <sub>10</sub> : Control-water spray	9.67	26.63	163.33	70.38
C.D. at 5% level of significance	NA	<b>2.67</b>	<b>4.09</b>	<b>2.51</b>

**Table.2** Effect of growth regulators on quality parameters in sweet orange cv. Jaffa

Treatments	TSS (°Brix)	Acidity (%)	TSS to acid ratio	Ascorbic acid (mg/100 ml)
T <sub>1</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 10 ppm	8.87	0.75	11.77	45.84
T <sub>2</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 20 ppm	8.40	0.77	10.96	43.45
T <sub>3</sub> : GA <sub>3</sub> - 30 ppm	8.17	0.78	10.42	50.47
T <sub>4</sub> : 2,4-D- 5ppm	8.87	0.73	12.14	44.53
T <sub>5</sub> : 2,4-D- 10 ppm	9.67	0.68	14.15	46.39
T <sub>6</sub> : 2,4-D- 15 ppm	9.87	0.65	15.10	51.44
T <sub>7</sub> : NAA- 20 ppm	9.30	0.72	12.92	45.43
T <sub>8</sub> : NAA- 30 ppm	9.83	0.67	14.68	47.65
T <sub>9</sub> : NAA- 40 ppm	9.33	0.71	13.08	49.16
T <sub>10</sub> : Control-water spray	8.07	0.79	10.17	42.25
C.D. at 5% level of significance	<b>0.31</b>	<b>N.S.</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.94</b>

The maximum number of fruits per plant with NAA 20 ppm might be attributed to less dropping of flowers and fruits, as the application of growth regulators made up the deficiency of endogenous auxin, which prevented formation of abscission layer possibly through the inhibition of enzymatic activity at higher temperature. The results of present investigation are in conformation with the findings of (Greenberg *et al.*, 2006) who observed that 2,4-D 40 mg/l, NAA 300 mg/l and 3,5,6-TPA 15 mg/l accumulate 150 fruits per plant, respectively. (Nawaz *et al.*, 2008) who reported that the number of fruits per plant increased significantly with the application of 2,4-D, GA<sub>3</sub> and NAA during last week of November in Kinnow mandarin, (Hussain *et al.*, 2011) who observed the highest number of fruits per plant in treatment 5 mg/l GA<sub>3</sub> (682.33) followed by 10 mg/l 2,4-D and 5 mg/l NAA with 659.66 and 647.66 fruits per plant, respectively and (Saleem *et al.*, 2013, Patel *et al.*, 2013) who observed that the highest number of fruits per tree was recorded with treatment NAA200 mg/l (1020.33). (Tiwana *et al.*, 2007, Thind *et al.*, 2008) also concluded same results in their investigation

### Quality parameters

The results obtained from the present investigation in Table 2 reveal that the maximum TSS (9.87°Brix), TSS to acid ratio (15.10), Ascorbic acid (51.44mg/100 ml) was recorded in fruits harvested from plants sprayed with 2,4-D 15 ppm followed by NAA 30 ppm than other treatments.

The increased TSS due to the spray of 2,4-D and NAA might be because of the increased translocation of sugars from source to the sink. The findings are also supported by Ahmad *et al.*, (2008) who observed the maximum TSS in fruits taken from the trees sprayed with 2,4-D 30 ppm (12.03%)

followed by 2,4-D 20 ppm and NAA 15 ppm with the values of 11.93 and 11.79%, respectively.

Dhaliwal *et al.*, (2009) who revealed the highest TSS in fruits taken from the trees sprayed with carbendazim 50WP 0.1% + 2,4-D 10 ppm (11.4%) in Kinnow mandarin. Hussain *et al.*, (2011) and Tamer *et al.*, (2012) who observed the maximum TSS in fruits taken from the trees sprayed with NAA 10 mg/l followed by NAA 20 mg/l and 2,4-D 30 mg/l respectively. Prasad *et al.*, (2013) who recorded the maximum TSS in fruits taken from the trees supplied with Urea + ZnSO<sub>4</sub> + 2,4-D (15.4°Brix) and Shweta and Misra (2015) observed the maximum TSS in fruits harvested from trees sprayed with NAA20 ppm (38.00%). Kaur *et al.*, (2000) who noticed an increase in vitamin C content over control with the application of 2,4-D 20 ppm in Kinnow mandarin.

In conclusion, thus the results of this study suggested that growth regulators have a great potential to affect yield and quality of sweet orange. It is concluded that NAA had positive effect on yield, while GA<sub>3</sub> and 2,4-D had significant impact on quality parameters. Thus, the maximum percent fruit retention and fruit yield per plant was observed when the plants were sprayed with NAA 20 ppm, while the TSS, TSS to acid ratio and ascorbic acid were recorded maximum and acidity minimum with foliar application of 2,4-D 15 ppm at pin head stage and in the middle of fruit growth in sweet orange cv. Jaffa. Therefore, these can be utilized for sustainable and higher fruit production and the fruit drop can be reduced to a great extent.

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