

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.810.299>

Influence of Nutrients and Shoot Retention on Growth, Yield and Fruit Characters in Rejuvenated Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Sardar

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ABSTRACT

A study on the influence of nutrients and shoot retention on growth and yield in rejuvenated guava was conducted during 2018-2019 in the Department of Fruit Science, Kittur Rani Channamma College of Horticulture, Arabhavi (UHS, Bagalkot), Karnataka. Among shoot thinning 3 shoots per branch (S₁) recorded maximum plant height (3.16 m), length of the shoot (132.48 cm), girth of the shoot (3.09 cm), number of leaves per shoot (76.94), Plant spread (N-S and E-S) (3.30 and 3.44 m), fruit physical parameters viz., Fruit length (6.48 cm), girth (6.58 cm), weight (162.82 g), number of fruits per plant (69.28), yield (2.85 t/ha). Nutrient had significant effect on growth and yield parameters in rejuvenated guava. Plants supplemented with 100 % RDF (200: 80: 150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 % each (F₆) has recorded maximum plant height (3.11 m), length of the shoot (133.22 cm), girth of the shoot (3.00 cm), number of leaves per shoot (76.00), Plant spread (N-S and E-S) (3.25 and 3.32 m), fruit physical parameters viz., Fruit length (6.57 cm), girth (6.64 cm), weight (168.64 g), number of fruits per plant (69.14), yield (3.03 t/ha). Interaction effect has got non significant results for all the parameters. However, the treatment S₂F₆ consisting of 4 shoots per branch and 100 per cent RDF (200:80:150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 per cent each has recorded moderate vegetative and fruit physical parameters and highest leaves per plant (79.67), highest number of fruits per plant (73.96) and yield (3.30 t/ha) with highest benefit cost ratio of 2.02.

Keywords

Guava, Rejuvenation, Shoot retention, Nutrients

Article Info

Accepted:

18 September 2019

Available Online:

10 October 2019

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is one of the most exquisite and valuable fruit of the tropics and belongs to the family "Myrtaceae". It is native of Tropical America and brought to India by

the Portuguese as early as 17th century. Guava is considered to be poor man's fruit and also called as apple of tropics which is very nutritious having vitamin C (75-260 mg/100g pulp) (Shukla *et al.*, 2008). Fruits are preferred for fresh consumption as well as different

processed products like jam, jelly, cheese, nectar *etc.* All parts of the plant used for different medicinal purposes *viz.*, hepatoprotection, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, anti-cancer, antimicrobial, anti-hyperglycemic, analgesic, anti-stomachache and anti-diarrhea (Barbalho *et al.*, 2012). In order to overcome the problem of unproductive and uneconomic orchards existing in abundance, large scale uprooting and replacement with new plantations (rehabilitation) is long term and expensive strategy. The rejuvenation technology involves the heading back of exhausted trees (showing marked decline in annual production and quality of produce) to 1.0 to 1.5-meter height above the ground level during May-June or December-February to facilitate the production of new shoots from below the cut point and allow the development of fresh canopy of healthy shoots (Jahangeer *et al.*, 2011). Pruning helps to balance between vegetative and reproductive growth of the plant. The main advantages of pruning on bearing trees include the formation of new shoots, avoid overcrowding of branches, removal of criss-crossed and diseased branches (Lian *et al.*, 2019). Manipulation of tree growth using canopy management practices to control tree growth patterns, tree shape for high fruit production of desired size and quality (Singh, 2001). The thinning of shoots per branch is also one of the canopy management practices in the rejuvenation of old orchards (Bhagawati *et al.*, 2015). Nutrients can be made available to the plants by the basal as well as foliar application. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the major and essential nutrients required by the plants in larger quantities. These are responsible for maximizing physiological activities of the plant which ultimately affect the growth, development, fruiting and quality until the fruits attain physiological maturity (Nijjar, 1996). Hence, the present investigation was undertaken to study the

influence of nutrients and shoot retention on growth, yield in rejuvenated guava cv. Sardar.

Materials and Methods

An experiment was carried out in the fruit science departmental orchard, the experiment was laid out in factorial randomized completely block design (FRCBD) and replicated thrice as follows. The factor 1 consists of 3 levels of thinning, *i.e.* retaining three shoots per branch (S_1), four shoots per branch (S_2) and Five shoots per branch (S_3). Shoot thinning was done in the 1st week of June. Factor 2 consists of 6 different nutrient levels *viz.*, 50 % RDF (100: 40: 75 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.2 % each (F_1), 50 % RDF (100: 40: 75 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 % each (F_2), 75 % RDF (150: 60: 110 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.2 % each (F_3), 75 % RDF (150: 60: 110 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 % each (F_4), 100 % RDF (200: 80: 150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.2 % each (F_5), 100 % RDF (200: 80: 150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 % each (F_6). Recommended doses of fertilizers were applied on per plant basis according to the treatment details in two split doses. 50 per cent of urea was applied in the month of July as basal dose and the remaining 50 per cent urea and full dose of single super phosphate and muriate of potash as top dress applied during October. Micro nutrients like zinc in the form of $ZnSO_4$, boron in the form of borax and magnesium in the form of $MgSO_4$ sprayed before and after flowering as per the treatments.

Results and Discussion

The growth parameters were significantly influenced by different treatments. Plants retained with 3 shoots per branch had resulted in maximum plant height (3.16 m), plant girth (12.01 cm), length of the shoot (132.48 cm), girth of the shoot (3.09 cm) this may be

attributed to relatively less numbers of shoots and availability of more nutrients per shoots under identical condition which is also reported by Bhagawati *et al.*, (2015) in guava. In the present study lateral buds are stimulated to grow (due to better dry matter partitioning) after pruning due to higher activity of GA-like substances which can be related to the findings by Lian *et al.*, (2019) in guava. Further higher number of leaves per shoot (76.94) was recorded in 4 shoots per branch which is due to increased length of shoot with the increasing pruning severity which was also reported by Pawan *et al.*, (2017) in mulberry. Maximum plant spread (N-S and E-W) (3.30 and 3.44 m) canopy volume (11.52 m³) were recorded in 5 shoots per branch. Since, pruning remove carbon-starved, fruiting exhausted shoots and promotes new leaf growth to build-up carbohydrates reserves for the next flowering and allows the sprouting of lateral buds which ultimately influenced the canopy spread and volume which was reported by Dhaliwal *et al.*, (2000) and Pilania *et al.*, (2010) in guava. Among nutrition F₆ has recorded maximum vegetative parameters *viz.*, plant height (3.11 m), plant girth (11.74 cm), length of the shoot (133.22 cm), girth of the shoot (3.00 cm), number of leaves per shoot (76.00), Plant spread (N-S and E-S) (3.25 and 3.32 m) and canopy volume (10.82 m³). This might be due to the fact that, application of nitrogen which resulted in vigorous vegetative growth of the plant and gave the darker green colour to the foliage. This favoured the photosynthetic activity of the plants and greater synthesis of carbohydrates, which led to the formation of amino acids, nucleo-proteins, chlorophyll, alkaloids and amides. The complex compounds are responsible for building up of new tissues and are associated with a number of metabolic processes, which in turn favour better developments of plants. The increase in growth as a result of nitrogen application is obvious. Similarly, increase in vegetative growth of fruit plants by the

application of nitrogen has also been reported earlier by Dhomane *et al.*, (2011) and Dineshkumar *et al.*, (2009) in guava. Increased vegetative growth by micronutrients might be due to residual effect of higher concentration of auxins in plant which produced high leaf to fruit ratio was an ultimate cause of higher amount of photosynthates and has a key role in cell division and elongation, and there by increased vegetative growth.

The highest Fruit length (6.48 cm), girth (6.58 cm), weight (162.82 g) and volume (139.53 ml) was recorded in S₁. The results are in the confirmation with Dhaliwal *et al.*, (2000) in guava, they found that polar diameter of fruit increased with pruning intensity of guava and also by Pilania *et al.*, (2010) in guava. The higher fruit weight and volume in pruned plants may be due to an improved micro-climate and higher photosynthetic rates as the pruning intensity increases the number of fruits per plant decreases. So, developing fruit gets ample of nutrient and plant hormone that increases fruit size. This may be the reason of highest fruit weight and volume observed in severe pruning by Sahoo *et al.*, (2017) in Sapota. Among the nutrition highest fruit length (6.57 cm), girth (6.64 cm), weight (168.64 g) and volume (146.70 ml) was recorded in F₆. The increase in number and area of leaves increases the amount of photosynthates that cause a significant increase in size and weight of fruit. The results of the present findings are supported from the findings of Lian *et al.*, (2019) in guava. This is due to the fact that nitrogen increases the efficiency of metabolic processes of the plant and consequently increases the size and weight of the fruit, another probable cause could be greater mobility of nutrients to the developing fruits which act as strong metabolic sink. Similar results were also reported by Dineshkumar *et al.*, (2009) in guava (Table 1 and 2).

Table.1 Estimation of vitamin B-6 (ppm) in Areca nut collected from different locations of Karnataka

| Treatments | Plant height (cm) | Plant stem girth (cm) | Length of the shoots (cm) | Girth of the shoots (cm) | Number of leaves per shoots | Plant spread (m) | | Canopy volume (m ³) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | | (North-South) | (East-West) | |
| Shoots retention (S) | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 3.16 | 12.01 | 132.48 | 3.09 | 71.07 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 8.02 |
| S ₂ | 2.89 | 11.65 | 127.02 | 2.66 | 76.94 | 3.03 | 3.19 | 10.08 |
| S ₃ | 2.69 | 10.43 | 123.11 | 2.47 | 71.41 | 3.30 | 3.44 | 11.52 |
| S.Em ± | 0.06 | 0.22 | 1.60 | 0.063 | 1.31 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.24 |
| CD at 5 % | 0.16 | NS | 4.60 | 0.18 | NS | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.69 |
| Nutrition (F) | | | | | | | | |
| F ₁ | 2.77 | 10.85 | 122.94 | 2.51 | 70.72 | 2.84 | 2.98 | 8.88 |
| F ₂ | 2.83 | 11.23 | 124.89 | 2.63 | 71.26 | 2.88 | 3.06 | 9.40 |
| F ₃ | 2.87 | 11.32 | 126.41 | 2.71 | 72.28 | 2.97 | 3.10 | 9.75 |
| F ₄ | 2.93 | 11.50 | 127.57 | 2.76 | 73.43 | 3.10 | 3.16 | 9.99 |
| F ₅ | 2.97 | 11.55 | 130.18 | 2.84 | 75.13 | 3.21 | 3.25 | 10.41 |
| F ₆ | 3.11 | 11.74 | 133.22 | 3.00 | 76.00 | 3.25 | 3.32 | 10.82 |
| S.Em ± | 0.08 | 0.31 | 2.26 | 0.089 | 1.85 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.34 |
| CD at 5 % | 0.23 | 0.89 | 6.50 | 0.25 | 5.32 | 0.22 | 0.21 | 0.98 |
| Interactions (S x F) | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ F ₁ | 3.06 | 11.02 | 128.33 | 2.91 | 68.50 | 2.55 | 2.58 | 6.92 |
| S ₁ F ₂ | 3.11 | 11.93 | 130.00 | 2.97 | 69.37 | 2.60 | 2.67 | 7.17 |
| S ₁ F ₃ | 3.13 | 11.93 | 130.83 | 3.04 | 70.00 | 2.77 | 2.76 | 7.83 |
| S ₁ F ₄ | 3.17 | 12.23 | 133.00 | 3.13 | 71.13 | 2.89 | 2.81 | 8.20 |
| S ₁ F ₅ | 3.20 | 12.24 | 135.05 | 3.20 | 73.40 | 2.96 | 2.97 | 8.67 |
| S ₁ F ₆ | 3.29 | 12.70 | 137.67 | 3.30 | 74.00 | 3.02 | 3.01 | 9.35 |
| S ₂ F ₁ | 2.70 | 11.44 | 122.83 | 2.44 | 74.67 | 2.89 | 3.07 | 9.54 |
| S ₂ F ₂ | 2.79 | 11.45 | 124.67 | 2.58 | 75.00 | 2.92 | 3.13 | 9.64 |
| S ₂ F ₃ | 2.83 | 11.69 | 126.39 | 2.63 | 76.50 | 2.93 | 3.16 | 9.91 |
| S ₂ F ₄ | 2.91 | 11.76 | 127.38 | 2.65 | 77.49 | 3.00 | 3.20 | 10.17 |
| S ₂ F ₅ | 2.96 | 11.75 | 128.49 | 2.73 | 78.33 | 3.20 | 3.25 | 10.38 |
| S ₂ F ₆ | 3.17 | 11.83 | 132.33 | 2.93 | 79.67 | 3.23 | 3.32 | 10.85 |
| S ₃ F ₁ | 2.55 | 10.08 | 117.67 | 2.17 | 69.00 | 3.06 | 3.28 | 10.18 |
| S ₃ F ₂ | 2.60 | 10.31 | 120.00 | 2.34 | 69.40 | 3.13 | 3.37 | 11.39 |
| S ₃ F ₃ | 2.64 | 10.33 | 122.00 | 2.46 | 70.34 | 3.20 | 3.38 | 11.51 |
| S ₃ F ₄ | 2.71 | 10.49 | 122.33 | 2.48 | 71.68 | 3.40 | 3.46 | 11.61 |
| S ₃ F ₅ | 2.75 | 10.67 | 127.00 | 2.59 | 73.67 | 3.47 | 3.54 | 12.18 |
| S ₃ F ₆ | 2.86 | 10.68 | 129.67 | 2.77 | 74.35 | 3.50 | 3.61 | 12.26 |
| S.Em ± | 0.14 | 0.54 | 3.92 | 0.15 | 3.21 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.59 |
| CD at 5 % | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS |

Table.2 Influence of number of shoots and nutrients on yield and yield attributes in rejuvenated guava

| Treatments | Fruit | | | | Number of fruits per plant | Yield | | B:C Ratio |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Length (cm) | Girth (cm) | Weight (g) | Volume (ml) | | (kg/plant) | (t/ha) | |
| Shoots retention (S) | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ | 6.48 | 6.58 | 162.82 | 139.53 | 61.71 | 9.17 | 2.55 | - |
| S ₂ | 6.29 | 6.38 | 157.89 | 136.27 | 69.28 | 10.25 | 2.85 | - |
| S ₃ | 5.93 | 6.10 | 147.98 | 123.04 | 65.48 | 9.23 | 2.57 | - |
| S.Em ± | 0.08 | 0.08 | 3.01 | 3.07 | 0.85 | 0.23 | 0.064 | - |
| CD at 5 % | 0.22 | 0.24 | 8.66 | 8.82 | 2.45 | 0.66 | 0.18 | - |
| Nutrition (F) | | | | | | | | |
| F ₁ | 5.98 | 6.08 | 143.59 | 123.52 | 61.02 | 8.31 | 2.31 | - |
| F ₂ | 6.06 | 6.21 | 150.12 | 127.48 | 63.03 | 8.81 | 2.45 | - |
| F ₃ | 6.14 | 6.28 | 152.74 | 129.62 | 65.43 | 9.35 | 2.60 | - |
| F ₄ | 6.25 | 6.39 | 158.26 | 131.21 | 66.52 | 9.73 | 2.70 | - |
| F ₅ | 6.39 | 6.51 | 164.03 | 139.14 | 67.80 | 10.20 | 2.83 | - |
| F ₆ | 6.57 | 6.64 | 168.64 | 146.70 | 69.14 | 10.90 | 3.03 | - |
| S.Em ± | 0.11 | 0.12 | 4.26 | 4.34 | 1.20 | 0.33 | 0.091 | - |
| CD at 5 % | 0.32 | 0.33 | 12.25 | 12.47 | 3.46 | 0.94 | 0.26 | - |
| Interactions (S x F) | | | | | | | | |
| S ₁ F ₁ | 6.20 | 6.30 | 147.40 | 129.00 | 58.73 | 8.04 | 2.23 | 0.61 |
| S ₁ F ₂ | 6.28 | 6.44 | 154.92 | 132.22 | 59.70 | 8.63 | 2.40 | 1.02 |
| S ₁ F ₃ | 6.29 | 6.57 | 156.01 | 134.97 | 61.41 | 8.93 | 2.48 | 1.04 |
| S ₁ F ₄ | 6.42 | 6.63 | 166.45 | 136.53 | 61.83 | 9.27 | 2.58 | 1.42 |
| S ₁ F ₅ | 6.74 | 6.70 | 175.07 | 148.33 | 63.47 | 9.71 | 2.70 | 1.48 |
| S ₁ F ₆ | 6.95 | 6.84 | 177.08 | 156.11 | 65.12 | 10.41 | 2.89 | 1.64 |
| S ₂ F ₁ | 6.08 | 6.14 | 146.03 | 128.22 | 64.13 | 8.80 | 2.44 | 0.77 |
| S ₂ F ₂ | 6.13 | 6.26 | 149.40 | 131.11 | 65.82 | 9.16 | 2.55 | 0.84 |
| S ₂ F ₃ | 6.23 | 6.32 | 156.45 | 132.22 | 68.83 | 10.09 | 2.80 | 1.31 |
| S ₂ F ₄ | 6.35 | 6.39 | 158.67 | 134.22 | 70.48 | 10.46 | 2.90 | 1.38 |
| S ₂ F ₅ | 6.40 | 6.53 | 166.33 | 140.75 | 72.45 | 11.15 | 3.10 | 1.84 |
| S ₂ F ₆ | 6.53 | 6.62 | 170.43 | 151.09 | 73.96 | 11.87 | 3.30 | 2.02 |
| S ₃ F ₁ | 5.66 | 5.80 | 137.34 | 113.33 | 60.18 | 8.10 | 2.25 | 0.63 |
| S ₃ F ₂ | 5.78 | 5.93 | 146.02 | 119.11 | 63.58 | 8.64 | 2.40 | 0.73 |
| S ₃ F ₃ | 5.90 | 5.96 | 145.77 | 121.67 | 66.05 | 9.03 | 2.51 | 0.77 |
| S ₃ F ₄ | 5.97 | 6.13 | 149.67 | 122.89 | 67.24 | 9.47 | 2.63 | 0.85 |
| S ₃ F ₅ | 6.03 | 6.31 | 150.68 | 128.33 | 67.48 | 9.74 | 2.71 | 1.48 |
| S ₃ F ₆ | 6.23 | 6.45 | 158.40 | 132.89 | 68.36 | 10.42 | 2.89 | 1.64 |
| S.Em ± | 0.19 | 0.20 | 7.38 | 7.52 | 2.08 | 0.57 | 0.16 | - |
| CD at 5 % | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | NS | - |

The possible reason for increase in fruit weight by the micronutrients might be due to faster loading and mobilization of photo assimilates to fruits and involvement in cell division and cell expansion which ultimately reflected into more weight of fruit in treated plants. Similar results were also found by Chandra and Singh (2015) in Aonla. The highest number of fruits per plant (69.28) and yield (10.25 kg/plant and 2.85 t/ha) was observed in S₂. Pruning facilitates supply of adequate nutrients to reduced plant parts for their proper growth and development. Thus, pruning with appropriate intensity, not only regulate the canopy size but also leads to better fruit quality and yield through better exposure of branches and fruits which was in accordance with the findings by Bhagawati *et al.*, (2015) and Camus *et al.*, (2018) in guava.

The analysed results dissipated significant differences for nutrition. The highest number of fruits per plant (69.14) and yield (10.90 kg/plant and 3.03 t/ha) was obtained in F₆. This may be due to increased photosynthesis, better plant growth and dry matter accumulation in addition to increase in number of flowers and fruit volume and fruit weight by Cardoso *et al.*, (2011), Dineshkumar *et al.*, (2009) in guava. Micronutrients improve physiological activities and might have improved radial and polar diameter of fruit which ultimately increased the yield of fruit. These results are in conformity with the findings of Kabeel *et al.*, (2013) in plum. Interaction effect has got non significant results for all the parameters. However, the treatment S₂F₆ consisting of 4 shoots per branch and 100 per cent RDF (200:80:150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 per cent each has recorded moderate vegetative, fruit physical parameters and with highest leaves per plant (79.67), highest number of fruits per plant (73.96) and yield (11.87 kg/plant and 3.30 t/ha). The data on cost of cultivation calculated per hectare basis

revealed that the treatment combination of S₂F₆ has result the highest benefit cost ratio of 2.02. These reports are in line with the findings of Pilania *et al.*, (2010) in guava.

In conclusion, plants with 3 shoots per branch have highest vegetative growth *viz.*, plant height, plant girth, length and girth of the shoot. Higher number of leaves per shoot was noticed in moderately (4 shoots/branch) thinned plants and plants with 5 shoots per branch had higher canopy spread and volume. Plants received with 100 per cent RDF (200:80:150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 per cent each has maximum growth and yield parameters. Retaining of 4 shoots per branch along with application of 100 per cent RDF (200:80:150 NPK g/plant) + (Zn+B+Mg) 0.3 per cent each is better for higher yield with highest benefit cost ratio of 2.02 in rejuvenated guava.

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How to cite this article:

Archana, S., Nagesh Naik, K.H. Nataraja, V. Kantharaju, Sayeed Almas Mulla and Vandana, V. 2019. Influence of Nutrients and Shoot Retention on Growth, Yield and Fruit Characters in Rejuvenated Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Sardar. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 8(10): 2582-2588. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2019.810.299>