Effect of pre-harvest spray of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on yield and quality of Nagpur mandarin (Citrus reticulata Blanco)

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Summary: An investigation was conducted on uniform, healthy, eight year old trees of Nagpur mandarin (citrus reticulata Blanco) at Fruit Research Farm, Department of Fruit Science at College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalawar during 16 September, 2014 to 1 March, 2015. Various doses of calcium nitrate (1.0%, 2.0% and 3.0 %), boric acid (0.2 %, 0.4 % and 0.6 %) and zinc sulphate (0.2 %, 0.4 % and 0.6 %) were sprayed before harvesting and compared with untreated ones. The results obtained indicated that the trees sprayed with T27 i.e. (calcium nitrate 3.0 % + boric acid 0.6 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %) showed maximum increase diameter of fruit, fruit weight, fruit volume, number of fruits per plant, fruit yield per plant, estimated yield per hectare, reducing sugar, non reducing sugar, total sugar, juice per cent, sensory score and reduced peel thickness over control. Further, T24 treatment combination (calcium nitrate 3.0 % + boric acid 0.4 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %) has also significantly increased number of segments per fruit, TSS, TSS: Acid ratio, ascorbic acid content, and reduced number of seeds per fruit and acidity percent of fruits.

Keywords: pre-harvest spray, calcium nitrate, zinc sulphate, boric acid, yield, quality

Introduction

Mandarin is considered to be one of the most important cultivated species among citrus groups. Nagpur mandarin (Citrus reticulata Blanco) belongs to family Rutaceae. Among the various citrus species, mandarin, sweet orange and lime are the common citrus fruits having 50, 21 and 15 per cent of total area under them, respectively. Nagpur mandarin is being commercially grown in specific region of the country like Nagpur mandarin in Central India, Khasi mandarin in North Eastern regions and Coorg mandarin in Southern regions. The total production of mandarin in India is 34.31 lakh tonnes from an area of 330.0 thousand hectares with the productivity of 10.4 m t/ha (Anonymous, 2015). In Rajasthan mandarin covers 11.20 thousand hectares area producing 229.90 thousand MT with the productivity of 20.5 m t/ha (Anonymous, 2015). In the state, In Jhalawar district mandarin where it is grown over 37,251 ha area, 11,323 ha of which are in the fruit bearing stage and the production is 2.5 Lac tonnes (Anonymous, 2015).

The nutrient plays an important role in the development and growth of new cells in plant meristem. The calcium salts are known to be involved in a number of physiological processes concerning membrane structure, function and enzymatic activity. The exact role of calcium, like that of all minerals, is still obscure, but it is important for cell wall development (Katiyar et al. 2008; Holb et al., 2012). Zinc (Zn) is an essential micro element for plants, being involved in many enzymatic reactions and is necessary for their good growth and development (Razzaq et al. (2013). Boron is also a heavy metal micronutrient. It is essential for translocation of sugar; involved in reproduction of plants and germination of pollen grains (Chaturvedi et al. (2007).

Since the demand of fruit is increasing in the market, thereby to achieve higher yield of good quality fruit with longer storage life become the priority. To improve the quality of fruit at harvest and to enhance the storage life by influencing the after harvest changes, several research workers have used certain pre-harvest treatments. The application of mineral nutrients like calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate are known to play a crucial role in growth, development, quality and storage of fruits. The present study will contribute in understanding the physical and biochemical status of Nagpur mandarin fruits at harvest as influenced by pre-harvest spray of mineral nutrients, which may help in increasing the yield, quality of Nagpur mandarin. Hence the present studies were undertaken under Rajasthan conditions especially in Jhalawar with the followings objectives: 1. to study the effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on yield and quality attributing characters of nagpur mandarin; 2. to study
the effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on storability parameters of nagpur mandarin; 3. to study the economics of the treatments used.

Materials and methods

The present investigation was carried out on eight years old Nagpur mandarin (Citrus reticulata Blanco.) of uniform size and growth at the Fruit research farm, Department of Fruit Science, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalawar during the year 2014-15. The selected plants were sprayed with Calcium nitrate (1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 per cent), Boric acid (0.2, 0.4 and 0.6 per cent) and Zinc sulphate (0.2, 0.4 and 0.6 per cent). This experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications. The factors of experimentation comprising of 28 treatment combinations to study the effect of pre-harvest spray of calcium nitrate, zinc sulphate and boric acid on yield, quality and storability of Nagpur mandarin (Citrus reticulata Blanco). The treatments were applied during second week of September, 2014 after selection of good uniform size and bearer plant. The observations were recorded on different aspects viz. physical characteristics of fruits (diameter of fruit, peel thickness, fruit weight, fruit volume, number of fruits per plant, number of sacs per fruit, number of seeds per fruit. The chemical composition of Nagpur mandarin fruits with respect to total soluble solids (TSS), total sugar, titrable acidity, ascorbic acid contents were determined by (AOAC 2007) by taking the samples from extracted juice of fruits. The data generated during the experimentation were subjected to statistical analysis of variance. The significance of the treatments was tested through ‘F’ test at 5 per cent level of significance. The critical difference was calculated to assess the significance of difference among the different treatments as described by fisher (1950).

Result and discussion

The data in (Table 1) reveal that interaction effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate was significant on diameter of fruits. The maximum increase in horizontal diameter (7.89 cm) and vertical diameter (7.58 cm) was observed with treatment T27 (calcium nitrate 3.0 % + boric acid 0.6 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %), which was closely followed by T23, T26, T24, T22 and T21 treatments. The higher result was closely followed by T23, T27, T21, T22 and T23 treatments. However, the maximum number of fruits per plant (134.43) was recorded with treatment T27 (calcium nitrate 3.0 per cent + boric acid 0.4 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) which was closely followed by T23, T26, T21, T22 and T23 treatments. However, the maximum number of number of seed per fruit (9.89) was recorded in control. The present results are in close conformity with the finding of Haque et al. (2000) in mandarin and Patil et al. in Kinnow (2014).

The data in (Table 2) reveal that interaction effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate was significant on number of seeds per fruit. The minimum number of seeds per fruit (6.33) was recorded with treatment T24 (calcium nitrate 3 per cent + boric acid 0.4 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) which was closely followed by T27, T26, T21, T22 and T23 treatments. However, the maximum number of number of seed per fruit (9.89) was recorded in control. The present results are in consonance with the findings of Haque et al. (2000) in Mandarin and Abd-Allah (2006) in Washington Naval Orange.

The data in (Table 2) reveal that interaction effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate was significant on number of segments per fruit. The maximum number of segments per fruit (12.56) was recorded with treatment T24 (calcium nitrate 3.0 per cent + boric acid 0.4 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) which was closely followed by T23, T27, T26, T21 and T23 treatments. However, the minimum number of number of segments per fruit (9.00) was recorded in control. The variation in the number of segments per fruit due to combination of different micronutrients might be attributed to difference in enzyme ion alluding during cell division and cell differentiation phases of fruit developments. The present results are in conformity with the findings of Razzaq et al. (2013) in Kinnow and Khan et al. 2015 in Kinnow.

The maximum number of fruits per plant (134.43) was recorded with treatment T27 (calcium nitrate 3.0 % + boric acid 0.6 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %) treatments. (Table 2) It was closely followed by T24, T23 and T25 treatments. However, the minimum number of fruits per plant (97.67) was recorded in control. The increase in number of fruits by application of micronutrient treatments may be due to reduction in fruit drop as a result of zinc, boron and calcium application which resulted in higher number of fruits and consequently the yield. The present results are in conformity with the findings of Haque et al. (2000) in mandarin, Babu et al. (2007) in Kinnow mandarin and Razzaq et al. (2013) in kinnow.
**Table 1** Effect of pre-harvest spray of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on physical and quality attributes of Nagpur mandarin (*Citrus reticulata* Blanco)

| Treatments | Diameter of fruits (cm) | Peel Thickness (mm) | Fruit weight (g) | Fruit volume (cc) |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
|            |                         | Horizontal | Vertical |                  |                  |
| T₀         | Ca₀ B₀ Zn₀             | 6.11       | 5.18     | 4.86             | 113.61           | 138.03           |
| T₁         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₁             | 6.22       | 5.56     | 4.78             | 122.67           | 148.79           |
| T₂         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₂             | 6.48       | 5.65     | 4.52             | 125.83           | 149.45           |
| T₃         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₃             | 6.58       | 5.78     | 4.39             | 130.53           | 152.82           |
| T₄         | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₁             | 6.80       | 5.82     | 3.97             | 132.34           | 160.00           |
| T₅         | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₂             | 6.79       | 5.98     | 4.29             | 129.28           | 156.29           |
| T₆         | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₃             | 6.85       | 5.60     | 3.82             | 138.30           | 156.24           |
| T₇         | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₁             | 6.92       | 5.98     | 3.83             | 140.11           | 170.16           |
| T₈         | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₂             | 6.66       | 6.02     | 3.79             | 130.22           | 157.82           |
| T₉         | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₃             | 7.12       | 6.44     | 3.53             | 140.08           | 168.55           |
| T₁₀        | Ca₂ B₁ Zn₁             | 6.88       | 6.34     | 3.72             | 147.98           | 173.22           |
| T₁₁        | Ca₂ B₁ Zn₂             | 6.94       | 5.95     | 3.69             | 140.12           | 167.45           |
| T₁₂        | Ca₂ B₁ Zn₃             | 7.38       | 6.42     | 3.77             | 141.36           | 171.32           |
| T₁₃        | Ca₂ B₂ Zn₁             | 7.41       | 6.54     | 3.78             | 148.97           | 175.22           |
| T₁₄        | Ca₂ B₂ Zn₂             | 7.43       | 6.76     | 3.74             | 139.32           | 171.11           |
| T₁₅        | Ca₂ B₂ Zn₃             | 7.39       | 6.38     | 3.66             | 150.19           | 178.82           |
| T₁₆        | Ca₂ B₃ Zn₁             | 7.48       | 6.85     | 3.67             | 142.78           | 167.17           |
| T₁₇        | Ca₂ B₃ Zn₂             | 7.52       | 7.05     | 3.65             | 151.07           | 178.33           |
| T₁₈        | Ca₂ B₃ Zn₃             | 7.11       | 6.92     | 3.50             | 144.83           | 176.12           |
| T₁₉        | Ca₃ B₁ Zn₁             | 7.53       | 6.22     | 3.57             | 153.42           | 183.11           |
| T₂₀        | Ca₃ B₁ Zn₂             | 7.42       | 7.08     | 3.67             | 150.99           | 178.31           |
| T₂₁        | Ca₃ B₁ Zn₃             | 7.70       | 7.23     | 3.67             | 145.54           | 176.23           |
| T₂₂        | Ca₃ B₂ Zn₁             | 7.77       | 7.27     | 3.38             | 147.44           | 176.57           |
| T₂₃        | Ca₃ B₂ Zn₂             | 7.83       | 7.47     | 3.57             | 157.33           | 187.34           |
| T₂₄        | Ca₃ B₂ Zn₃             | 7.78       | 7.31     | 3.27             | 158.89           | 189.37           |
| T₂₅        | Ca₃ B₃ Zn₁             | 7.31       | 6.93     | 3.48             | 153.78           | 183.87           |
| T₂₆        | Ca₃ B₃ Zn₂             | 7.82       | 7.44     | 3.33             | 157.33           | 187.86           |
| T₂₇        | Ca₃ B₃ Zn₃             | 7.89       | 7.58     | 3.21             | 160.72           | 190.14           |

Here,  
Ca₁ – Calcium nitrate – 1%  B₁ – Boric acid – 0.2%,  Zn₁ – Zinc sulphate – 0.2%  
Ca₂ – Calcium nitrate – 2%  B₂ – Boric acid – 0.4%,  Zn₂ – Zinc sulphate – 0.4%  
Ca₃ – Calcium nitrate – 3%  B₃ – Boric acid – 0.6%,  Zn₃ – Zinc sulphate – 0.6%

**Table 2** Effect of pre-harvest spray of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on physical and quality attributes of Nagpur mandarin

| Treatments | No. of seeds / fruit | No. of sacs / fruit | No. of fruits per plant | Yield per plant (kg) | Estimated yield (tones / ha.) |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| T₀         | Ca₀ B₀ Zn₀           | 9.89                | 9.00                   | 97.67                | 11.27                       | 3.55                       |
| T₁         | Ca₁ B₀ Zn₀           | 9.78                | 9.89                   | 100.33               | 12.06                       | 3.69                       |
| T₂         | Ca₁ B₀ Zn₁           | 9.78                | 9.67                   | 107.00               | 12.11                       | 3.77                       |
| T₃         | Ca₁ B₀ Zn₂           | 9.42                | 9.89                   | 109.00               | 12.33                       | 3.94                       |
| T₄         | Ca₁ B₀ Zn₃           | 9.67                | 10.33                  | 108.00               | 13.77                       | 4.02                       |
| T₅         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₀           | 9.67                | 10.11                  | 110.67               | 15.22                       | 4.14                       |
| T₆         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₁           | 9.23                | 10.78                  | 118.00               | 14.33                       | 4.24                       |
| T₇         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₂           | 8.94                | 10.44                  | 117.67               | 15.78                       | 4.29                       |
| T₈         | Ca₁ B₁ Zn₃           | 9.12                | 10.78                  | 110.67               | 16.39                       | 4.14                       |
| T₉         | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₀           | 8.89                | 10.00                  | 118.54               | 16.22                       | 4.62                       |
| T₁₀        | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₁           | 9.12                | 10.33                  | 120.00               | 15.78                       | 4.27                       |
| T₁₁        | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₂           | 8.89                | 10.78                  | 121.33               | 17.34                       | 4.42                       |
| T₁₂        | Ca₁ B₂ Zn₃           | 9.00                | 11.11                  | 118.33               | 17.77                       | 4.77                       |
| T₁₃        | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₀           | 8.78                | 10.67                  | 125.33               | 17.92                       | 4.64                       |
| T₁₄        | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₁           | 8.50                | 11.44                  | 119.00               | 17.11                       | 4.96                       |
| T₁₅        | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₂           | 8.24                | 10.89                  | 119.00               | 18.37                       | 5.27                       |
| T₁₆        | Ca₁ B₃ Zn₃           | 8.37                | 11.78                  | 120.00               | 18.44                       | 5.12                       |
The data in (Table 4.2) indicated that the interaction effect of calcium nitrate, zinc sulphate and boric acid was significantly observed on fruit yield in kg/tree and tonnes/ha. The fruit yield of Nagpur mandarin (21.67 kg/tree and 6.32 tonnes/ha) recorded maximum with treatment T27 (calcium nitrate 3.0% + boric acid 0.6% + zinc sulphate 0.6%) which was at par with T24, T26, T23 and T25 treatments. However, the minimum fruit yield (11.27 kg/tree and 3.55 tonnes/ha) was recorded in control. The increase in yield of Nagpur mandarin fruits by application of micronutrient treatments may be due to the direct or indirect involvement of nutrients which provide better mobilization of nutrients and metabolites for the growth and development of fruits by increase in metabolic activities and better cellular pathways. These activities improve their size, weight and volume and thereby synergistically increased the total yield of Nagpur mandarin. The present results are in conformity with the findings of Saraswathi et al. (1998) in Mandarin and Patil et al. (2014) in Kinnow.

### Quality characteristics of fruits

It is evident from the results that pre-harvest application of micronutrients on Nagpur mandarin had significantly improved the nutritional quality of fruits in terms of TSS, acidity content, TSS/Acid ratio, sugars contents, ascorbic acid content, juice per cent and sensory score of fruit as compared to control.

However, the highest TSS, (12.05 °B), lowest acidity (0.73 %) and maximum TSS/ Acid ratio (15.97) were recorded under T24 (calcium nitrate 3.0 per cent + boric acid 0.4 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) treatment and T27 was found second best treatment with regards to these parameters (Table 3).

Higher total soluble solids and TSS: Acid ratio might be due to the efficient translocation of photosynthates to the fruit by regulation of calcium, boron and zinc. Ullah et al. (2012) revealed that acidity percentage of mandarin fruit might have been reduced due to higher synthesis of nuclic acids, on account of maximum availibility of plant metabolism. The similar results of increase in TSS, reduction in acidity and there by increased TSS / acid ratio was observed by these micronutrient treatments by Dawood et al. (2002) in ‘Balady’ mandarin, El-Rahman (2003) in Naval orange and Prakash et al. (2014) in pomegranate.

The data presented in (Fig 1) reveal that interaction effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate was significant on ascorbic acid of fruits. The ascorbic acid of Nagpur mandarin fruits (50.61 mg/100 ml) was recorded maximum with treatment T24 (calcium nitrate 3.0 per cent + boric acid 0.4 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) which was closely followed by T27, T23, T26, T20 and T21 treatments. However, minimum ascorbic acid of fruit (34.95 mg) was recorded in control. Augmentation of ascorbic acid per cent age of mandarin fruit might be due to their involvement in photosynthesis of metabolites and rapid translocation of sugars from other part of the plants to developing fruits (Singh et al. 2012). These results are in conformity with the findings of Saraswathy et al. (1998) in Mandarin and Rajkumar et al. (2014) in Guava.

### Table 2 Cont.

| Treatments | No. of seeds / fruit | No. of sacs / fruit | No. of fruits per plant | Yield per plant (kg) | Estimated yield (tones / ha.) |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| T17        | Ca₂, B₂, Zn₂        | 8.10                | 11.00                   | 118.34               | 19.55                      | 5.42                       |
| T18        | Ca₂, B₂, Zn₃        | 7.96                | 11.78                   | 125.67               | 19.78                      | 5.74                       |
| T19        | Ca₂, B₃, Zn₂        | 8.10                | 10.89                   | 121.34               | 19.04                      | 5.82                       |
| T20        | Ca₂, B₃, Zn₃        | 7.78                | 11.67                   | 121.67               | 18.99                      | 5.94                       |
| T21        | Ca₃, B₂, Zn₂        | 7.44                | 12.00                   | 125.00               | 20.33                      | 6.04                       |
| T22        | Ca₃, B₂, Zn₃        | 7.67                | 11.78                   | 128.23               | 20.11                      | 5.85                       |
| T23        | Ca₃, B₃, Zn₂        | 7.67                | 12.33                   | 130.78               | 21.10                      | 6.18                       |
| T24        | Ca₃, B₃, Zn₃        | 6.33                | 12.56                   | 132.33               | 21.48                      | 6.28                       |
| T25        | Ca₃, B₃, Zn₃        | 7.78                | 11.44                   | 128.67               | 20.77                      | 6.11                       |
| T26        | Ca₃, B₃, Zn₃        | 7.14                | 11.89                   | 131.11               | 21.37                      | 6.23                       |
| T27        | Ca₃, B₃, Zn₃        | 6.82                | 12.22                   | 134.43               | 21.67                      | 6.32                       |
| CD at 5%   | 0.23                 | 0.27                | 2.77                    | 0.39                 | 0.10                       |
| SEm ±      | 0.65                 | 0.76                | 7.87                    | 1.11                 | 0.31                       |

Here, Ca1 – Calcium nitrate– 1%        B1 – Boric acid – 0.2%,        Zn1 – Zinc sulphate – 0.2%
Ca2 – Calcium nitrate –2%        B2 – Boric acid – 0.4%,        Zn2 – Zinc sulphate – 0.4%
Ca3 – Calcium nitrate – 3%        B3 – Boric acid – 0.6%,        Zn3 – Zinc sulphate – 0.6%
acid, on account of maximum availability of plant metabolism (Sajid et al., 2012). These results are in conformity with the findings of Sajid et al. (2012) in Sweet orange and Yadav et al. (2015) in Guava.

The data in (Fig 1) reveal that the juice percent of Nagpur mandarin fruits (46.89) was recorded maximum with treatment T_{27} (calcium nitrate 3.0 per cent + boric acid 0.6 per cent + Zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent) which was closely followed by T_{24}, T_{23}, T_{25}, T_{26} and T_{23} treatments. However, the minimum juice percent of fruit (32.43 %) was recorded in control. These results are in close conformity with those of Dawood et al. (2002) in ‘Balady’ mandarin, Malik et al. (2000) in Kinnow and Prakash et al. (2014) in pomegranate.

The data in (Fig 1) reveal that interaction effect of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate was not significantly affected the sensory score of Mandarin fruits. However, the maximum sensory score (9.23/10.00) was recorded with treatment T_{27} (calcium nitrate 3 per cent + boric acid 0.6 per cent + zinc sulphate 0.6 per cent). Whereas, the minimum sensory score of Mandarin (7.11/10.00) was recorded under control. The maximum organoleptic rating

### Table 3 Effect of pre-harvest spray of calcium nitrate, boric acid and zinc sulphate on quality characteristics of Nagpur mandarin

| Treatments | TSS (°B) | T. Acidity (%) | TSS/Acid ratio | Reducing sugar (%) | Non Reducing (%) | Total sugar (%) |
|------------|---------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| T_0        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 8.14 | 0.98 | 8.31 | 4.50 | 1.72 | 6.31 |
| T_1        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 8.34 | 0.96 | 8.69 | 4.60 | 1.77 | 6.46 |
| T_2        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 9.00 | 0.96 | 9.38 | 4.67 | 1.78 | 6.54 |
| T_3        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 9.27 | 0.94 | 9.86 | 4.77 | 1.85 | 6.72 |
| T_4        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 9.14 | 0.95 | 9.62 | 4.85 | 1.87 | 6.82 |
| T_5        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 9.34 | 0.93 | 10.04 | 4.77 | 2.06 | 6.94 |
| T_6        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.13 | 0.90 | 11.26 | 4.89 | 2.13 | 7.13 |
| T_7        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 9.74 | 0.88 | 11.07 | 4.98 | 2.22 | 7.32 |
| T_8        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.24 | 0.88 | 11.64 | 5.02 | 2.15 | 7.28 |
| T_9        | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.27 | 0.85 | 12.08 | 5.11 | 2.10 | 7.32 |
| T_10       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.34 | 0.89 | 11.62 | 5.20 | 2.11 | 7.42 |
| T_11       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.62 | 0.86 | 12.35 | 5.30 | 2.25 | 7.67 |
| T_12       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.76 | 0.85 | 12.66 | 5.46 | 2.14 | 7.71 |
| T_13       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 10.84 | 0.82 | 13.22 | 5.50 | 2.30 | 7.92 |
| T_14       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.11 | 0.82 | 13.55 | 5.61 | 2.31 | 8.04 |
| T_15       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.37 | 0.80 | 14.21 | 5.56 | 2.26 | 7.94 |
| T_16       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.67 | 0.78 | 14.96 | 5.67 | 2.32 | 8.11 |
| T_17       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.67 | 0.79 | 14.77 | 5.77 | 2.34 | 8.23 |
| T_18       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.78 | 0.77 | 15.30 | 5.81 | 2.38 | 8.31 |
| T_19       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.05 | 0.80 | 13.81 | 6.11 | 2.26 | 8.49 |
| T_20       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.78 | 0.79 | 14.91 | 6.20 | 2.35 | 8.67 |
| T_21       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.85 | 0.77 | 15.39 | 6.11 | 2.54 | 8.78 |
| T_22       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.78 | 0.78 | 15.10 | 6.24 | 2.44 | 8.81 |
| T_23       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.85 | 0.76 | 15.59 | 6.29 | 2.52 | 8.94 |
| T_24       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 12.05 | 0.73 | 15.97 | 6.23 | 2.54 | 8.90 |
| T_25       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.90 | 0.77 | 15.56 | 6.22 | 2.51 | 8.86 |
| T_26       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 11.98 | 0.76 | 15.65 | 6.28 | 2.57 | 8.98 |
| T_27       | Ca_{1} B_{1} Zn_{1} | 12.00 | 0.74 | 15.78 | 6.30 | 2.58 | 9.02 |
| CD at 5%   | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.18 | 0.06 | 0.02 | 0.08 |
| SEm±       | 0.26 | NS | 0.40 | NS | 0.08 | 0.16 |
due to application of calcium, zinc and boron might be due to better sugar acid ratio and better electrolytic balance of juice and overall enhancement of fruit quality. These results are in close conformity with those of Malik et al. (2000) in Kinnow, El-Rahman (2003) in Naval orange.

Conclusion

On the basis of results obtained from the field experiment, it may be concluded that the pre-harvest spray of different micronutrients was found beneficial for yield and quality of Nagpur mandarin especially under Agro-climatic zone-V of Rajasthan i.e. in Jhalawar condition. However, among different interaction treatments, T27 treatment (calcium nitrate 3 % + boric acid 0.6 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %) has given significantly maximum increase diameter of fruit, fruit weight, fruit volume, number of fruits per plant, fruit yield per plant, estimated yield per hectare, reducing sugar, non reducing sugar, total sugar, juice per cent, sensory score and reduced peel thickness over control. Further, T24 treatment combination (calcium nitrate 3 % + boric acid 0.4 % + zinc sulphate 0.6 %) has also significantly increased number of segments per fruit, TSS, TSS: Acid ratio, ascorbic acid content, and reduced number of seeds per fruit and acidity percent of fruits.

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