Importance of various plant growth regulators in kinnnow (Citrus reticulate Blanco)

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.22271/chemi.2021.v9.i1y.11478

Abstract
Plant hormones are a tremendously imperative cause in the incorporation of development activities. Ecological factors often have inductive effects, causing changes in the metabolism and distribution of hormones in the plant. In addition, they regulate the expression of the internal genetic potential of plants. Control of gene expression has been demonstrated for phytohormones at the transcriptional and translational levels. In adding up, hormone receptors and specific binding proteins for certain hormones have been identified on the surface of the membrane. The use of the growth regulators has become an essential component of agronomic modus operandi for most crops and in particular for fruit plants. So, in fruit crops, excessive fruit drop can be controlled by the exogenous application of plant growth regulators. Auxin and Gibberellins are widely used to control fruit drop and to improve fruit quality. Maturation process from fruit set to ripening and final delivery to the customer, several agents are responsible for the elimination of certain fruits from hardening to final maturity. In this review, we focus on the main functions of plant growth regulators in Kinnnow mandarin production.

Keywords: Kinnnow mandarin, plant growth regulators, fruit physiological growth, yield

Introduction
Citrus fruits belonging to the Rutaceae family and order Sapindales are one of the most important fruit plants of economic importance, grown worldwide, mainly because of their abundant vitamin C. Among citrus Kinnnow (Citrus reticulata Blanco) is a high yielding mandarin hybrid. Widely in Punjab, India, and Pakistan (Anon 2018). It is an anti-toxic product that has excellent skin and immunity and helps lower blood pressure. It is anti-inflamatoriy, boosts metabolism, regulates acidity and constipation, and thus balances cholesterol. Adequate plant nutrition contributes to improving the productivity and optimal quality of agricultural products (Srivastava and Singh, 2002) [30]. In India, however, horticultural crop productivity is static and per capita land is barely related to different nutrient use through the plants’ roots. Therefore, the application of nutrients and growth regulator foliage can play an important role in improving fruit productivity and quality. In northwestern India, Kinnnow cultivation is becoming increasingly important due to precautionary bearings and high yield potential. However, increased production reports some underlying problems, such as excessive virgin planting leading to tree destruction, high variability in fruit size, and suicidal tendency. Care should be taken when the size of the fruit is small and the percentage is high because the whole crop is consumed fresh and a large amount of fruit on the market is at a premium price. There are several reasons for small fruit size and potassium deficiency is the most important factor in regulating fruit size (Gill et al. 2005).

Low fruit sets and reduced quality of fruit are due to malnutrition, water stress, insect pest attack, and most importantly, the hormonal imbalance (Nawaz et al. 2008) [19]. The flowers and fruits on trees senescence when the concentration of auxin decreases and the concentration of ABA increases (Marinho et al. 2005).

Plant growth regulators are used in the production of citrus fruits, affect flowering, fruiting, and fruit fall, and play a major role in fruit growth and abscission. These regulators also influence fruit quality factors such as skin quality and color, fruit size, and juice quality, and are also used to improve the total soluble solids of various citrus fruits.
This review could be a complete reduction in the potential role of substances that promote the growth of citrus physiological processes. (Harsimrat et al. 2015)

Auxin and GA3 can be used to reduce the decline of citrus fruits and improve fruit quality (Almeida et al. 2004) [2]. The foliar application of Gibberic acid can contribute to increased productivity by reducing the rate of fruit loss (Ullah et al. 2014) [1]. The foliar application of Naa (naphthalene acetate) can contribute to the reduction of the crop load, the reduction of the biennial yield, and the improvement of the fruit size and quality of different species and cultivated varieties (Guardiola et al. 2000) [12]. Researchers have suggested the use of appropriate plant growth regulators and nutrients macro and macro to curb excessive fruit loss and improve the yield and quality of citrus fruits (macro and macro). Saleem et al. (2005) [29], may have early outcomes due to high temperature and irrigation facilities, pest attacks, and high wind speeds in the area (Ibrahim et al. 2007) [13]. Therefore, the proper use of nutrients and growth regulators to reduce premature fruit loss is strongly suggested (Modise et al. 2009) [16].

Role of the plant growth regulator

Flowering: Citrus fruits bloom every year after completion of the juvenile period. The annual flowering of mature trees is influenced by several external and inherent factors. In citrus, like most tropical and subtropical trees, low temperatures can cause a severe drop in flowers (Attawia and El –Desouky, 1997). According to Martinez et al. (2004), when GA3 (20-50 mg/L) was administered to all citrus fruits as a foliar application (6 L per tree), Hemandina flowering decreased by 25% and Orogrande flowering decreased by 60% During citrus bud development, the application of GA3 has been shown to inhibit flower production Guardiola et al. (1982) [19], increasing the proportion of terminal flowers in leaf buds and promoting fruit development (Iglesias, et al. 2007). These results were also shown when ethinal and GA3 were used to induce citrus blossoms, but GA3 had an inhibitory effect (Takahara et al. 2001).

Fruit Physical characteristics

Fruit color: Fruit color results from various treatments with GA3 showed significant results (p<0.05). The untreated fruit received the highest color score (5.0), but the lowest was observed for the T3 fruit (GA3 at 85 ppm) (2.66). This has also been reported by other researchers because GA3 may delay the degradation of chlorophyll and inhibits the biosynthesis and accumulation of the carotenoid Beta cryptoxanthin (Bevington et al. 1973).

Juice weight: Juice weight was 65 ppm (325.27 g), the highest detected in GA3. This is almost 40% higher than the control (203.67g) all processed fruits significantly increase the weight of the juice compared to the control also that the weight of Hamlin orange juice was increased by spraying before the GA3 harvest (Davies et al. 2001).

Biochemical Characteristics

Total Soluble solids (TSS, Deg Brix): observed higher TSS in the control (10. Deg Brix), followed by GA3 at 25 ppm (13.65 Deg Brix). Treatment with GA3 at 65 ppm and 85 ppm did not give good results as they are yet ripe, as they slow down the ripening of the fruit when GA3 is applied before the flower collapses (Attawia and El –Desouky, 1997). Spraying GA3 on trees in Washington has been reported to increase TSS in oranges Saleem et al. (2008) [24], found that 10 ppm GA3 spray applied in the fall slows the development of skin color, leading to a reduction in TSS, sugar, and ascorbic acid. Titrable acidity (%): Ritenour et al. (2005) [23], reported foliar application of GA3 significantly affected the acidity of Kinnow mandarin fruit, which can be titrated (p<0.05). The results showed that the minimum acidity (0.33%) was observed at GA3 at 45 ppm and the maximum acidity was observed in the control fruit (0.66%). As indicated, the decrease in acidity may be due to the diluting effect of increasing water absorption by spraying GA3.

Ascorbic acid: Otmani et al. (2004), stated the content of ascorbic acid in the treated fruits was increased compared to the fruits of untreated wood (control). Maximum levels of ascorbic acid were detected with GA3 at 45 ppm treatment (50. 90 mg g⁻¹), while the minimum levels of ascorbic acid were found in control fruits (38.75 mg g⁻¹). Also noticed that the application of GA3 before harvest increases the content of ascorbic acid in citrus fruits.

Total phenol content: Moneruzzaman et al. (2011) [17], his trial show that GA3 (65 or 85 ppm) has the highest total phenol content (230.74 and 229.10 mg 100 g⁻¹, respectively) compared to GA3 (25 or 45 ppm, respectively), (220.7 and 221.74 mg 100 g⁻¹). Administration of various concentrations of GA3 has been observed to significantly increase the phenol content in Syzygium samarangense.

Total antioxidant: the largest antioxidant is present at GA3 at 45 ppm (39.15 micro g /100 g) and the smallest antioxidant is observed at GA3 at 85ppm (29.15 micro g/100 g), statistics. This was equivalent to GA3 at 65ppm. This is because GA3 at 85 ppm fruits have not yet ripened at harvest.

Total carotenoid content: Reddy and Prasad (2012) [22] investigated that applications of GA3 increase to some extent the content of carotenoids in C. Sinensis and C. reticulata. He recorded the statistics on the total carotenoid content of Kinnow fruits and showed that the maximum total carotenoid content (15.90 micro gm⁻¹) is observed in fruits sprayed with GA3 at 25 ppm. Fruits sprayed with GA3 at 65 and 85 ppm showed similar values for total carotenoids (12.01 and 12.00 micro GML⁻¹) respectively. The various treatments with Kinnow are affected by the administration of Gibberellic acid. This application significantly reduces the degree of staining of the fruit with Kinnow. Of all the treatments, GA3 at 25 ppm and 45 ppm were found to perform better in the biochemical properties of Kinnow mandarin. And have concluded that GA3 (25 or 45 ppm) can be used as a foliar application to improve the fruit quality of Kinnow (Waqar Shafqat et al. 2020) [31].

Among the nutrients, potassium is one of the most essential major nutrients and varies greatly from individuals cells to xylem and depending on the plant. Potassium (K) improves the fruit size, juice content, color, size, and juice taste (Ashraf
et al. 2010). In short, K improves the mineral content, yield El – Safty et al. (1998), and fruit quality Wei et al. (2002), of citrus fruits. Therefore, optimal K supply can have a positive impact on citrus yield, quality, and fruit loss. Similarly, deficiencies in trace elements (Zn, Cu, Fe, and Mn) in soil can affect citrus yield, fruit quality, and properties of fruit yield and therefore yield (Dawood et al. 2000). Calcium is a plant for improving fruit yield and quality. Another important element of nutrition (El-Shobaky and Mohammed 2000). We have embraced on a study of the effects of micronutrient growth regulators and leaves on Kinnow yield and fruit quality.

Pradeep Singh et al. (2018), studied the effects of growth regulators and micronutrients on Kinnow yield and fruit quality. He performed nine treatments. Control (water spray), NAA at 100 ppm, NAA at 150 ppm, GA$_3$ at 75 ppm, GA$_3$ at 100 ppm, ZnSO$_4$ at 0. 5 percent, K$_2$SO$_4$ at 0. 1 percent, K$_2$SO$_4$ at 0. 2 percent. Application of GA$_3$ at 100 ppm gives the maximum plant growth (plant height, trunk circumference, canopy volume (EW/NS)and leaf area, number of fruits per tree (458), and fresh fruit yield (uptake 114. 0 kg per trees)). Therefore, it is very important to select plant growth regulators or nutrients (macro or micro) that are suitable for foliar application on citrus trees to achieve the best potential and quality of fruit through optimal growth.

Based on VM Prasad et al. (2018) [9], treated T$_2$ (GA$_3$ at 150 ppm) is preferred in terms of maximum plant height, canopy spread and leaf area measured in cm. It can be concluded that it was obtained in (cm$^2$), number of branches/plants, stem diameter, stem length (cm) 150 days after spraying with a plant growth regulator, flower/plants, minimum number of fruit fall/plant, average fruit weight (g), extra length (cm) and minimum incidence of pests, followed by T$_1$ treatment (GA$_3$ at 125 ppm) also observed, but the smallest value was control. Studied the individual effects of plant growth regulators on the fruit and quality characteristics of Nagpur mandarin (Citrus reticulate Blanco) and showed that the application of 2,4 –D at 30 ppm gives excellent results in terms of total soluble solids content, total acidity, TSS/acid ratio, reduced sugar, undiluted sugar, total sugar and ascorbic acid content of the fruit. With the highest sensory score, number of fruits per tree, fruit retention, yield per plant, and hectar. Maximum juice recovery and fruit weight were recorded with a 100 ppm GA$_3$ sprayer (M C Jain et al. 2014) [14].

To control pre-harvest fruit fall and improve mushroom quality, only fruits have different concentrations of PGR (2,4 –D, NAA, GA$_3$). We evaluated the effect of falls and improve the quality of Kinnow fruits. Three sprays of PGR on Kinnow plants were given 2,4-D, NAA, GA$_3$ according to the concentrations of treatment from the beginning of flowering to the pre-harvest. The results showed that the physical and chemical properties of the results were superior to all others among all PGRs tested at different concentrations, so a 2,4-D at 30 ppm was applied it increased the size of the fruit and increased the overall yield of Kinnow (Rajesh sihag et al. 2019) [26].

Pre-harvest fruit drop on the Pre-harvest drop of the fruit is of commercial loss to farmers as the drop occurs just before harvesting when fruit is physiologically mature. The growth regulators treatments (2,4 –D, GA$_3$, NAA) significantly reduced the pre-harvest drop compared to control. The lowest fruit drop of 12. 955was observed in T$_3$ (20 ppm 2,4 –D) followed by T$_2$(10 ppm 2,4 –D) and T$_1$(20 ppm GA$_3$) with a fruit drop of 15. 02 and 16. 02% whereas, the maximum fruit drop (49. 03%) was found in Control. It is also clear from the results that 2,4-D treatments proved better compared to GA$_3$ and NAA but when the concentrations of 2,4- D were increased up to 30 ppm, fruit drop was also increased. GA$_3$ was at second position in controlling the pre-harvest fruit drop. They stated that their results were found to agree with that of Almedina et al. (2004) [3], who reported that application of 2,4 –D, GA$_3$ some other plant growth regulators significantly reduced the pre-harvest fruit drop in citrus species. Keeping in view the above results it can safely be recommended that 2,4- D can be applied at 20 ppm to control the pre-harvest fruit drop in Kinnow mandarin (Waqar Ahmad et al. 2018).

Hidayatullah Mir et al. (2017), reported frequency of application on pre-harvest fruit drop and quality of Kinnow mandarin. 2,4 –dichlorophenetic acid at 20 ppm, when sprayed three times at monthly intervals, can reduce fruit drop of Kinnow mandarin significantly when compared to the lower concentration level (10ppm) hence increasing yield and leads to improvement of some fruit quality traits and giving good returns to the growers. Therefore 2,4 –D could thus be used as foliar sprays to increase fruit yield under conditions that favor provided it is applied in required quantity and appropriate growth.

(Nawaz et al. 2008) [18] PGR effect on (fruit per plant and vitamin C) Number of fruits per plant: the study relating to the number of fruits per plant showed significant results. A maximum of 708 fruit per plant was recorded in T$_3$ (20 PPM 2,4 –D), followed by T$_9$(10 ppm NAA) and T$_8$(10 ppm NAA) and T$_4$ (30 PPM 2,4- D), with 686. 66 and 662 correspondingly. However, the lowest number of fruit (420. 59) was recorded in the case of the T$_1$ Control. Overall, Auxins (2,4-D and NAA) performed better for reducing fruit drop and increasing final crop yield than GA$_3$. Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant and is an essential part of human food. It helps save people from very serious diseases and eliminates the active oxygen species (ROS) produced in the body. The content of vitamin C (Ascorbic acid) in the fruit varies in the concentration of different citrus fruits. Vitamin C is influenced by environmental factors, fruit harvest times, plant viability, plant age, and the application of growth regulators. (M. AzherNawaz et al., 2008) [18] reported that all the growth regulators treatments significantly increased the vitamin C contents of Kinnow. 2,4-D and NAA treatments proved better compared to Gibberelic acid treatments; as the concentration of Auxin (2,4-D or NAA) increases vitamin C contents also increase. Over time the concentration of Vitamin C increases so the fruits which are harvested earlier have less amount of Vitamin C compared to the fruits which are harvested later. Xavier et al. (2005) also observed that pre-harvest application of growth regulators increased vitamin C contents of the citrus fruits.

**Conclusion**

Plant growth regulators are versatile compounds. Uniform application of PGR (24 D, GA$_3$, NAA) significantly increased the proportion of citrus mandarin fruit sets and increased the average fruit yield per plant. Fruit quality, TSS, acidity, fruit size was improved by applying PGR at low concentrations of particular and the improved fruit parameters were effectively reduced over high concentrations of particular interest is GA$_3$ commercially in the Horticulture sector. As can be seen from the current literature, its application in the citrus spp industry especially in Kinnow GA$_3$ application had shown many beneficial aspects in the case of Flowering. Fruit size, color TSS, TTA, Antioxidant percentage, and overall quality. The
advantage of growth regulators is that they can be used in very low concentrations. Therefore, it does not endanger your health. However it is important to understand the basic mechanisms of growth and development of citrus to manipulate the main physiological processes and use plant growth regulators at the appropriate developmental stage and the optimal dose. Therefore, it is desirable to talk in on the study of the mechanism of action in plant growth.

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