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Effect of time of pruning and use of paclobutrazol on fruit physical and biochemical traits of mango cv. Alphonso

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Abstract

Alternate bearing is one of the important challenges of the mango industry, there are several practices to overcome alternate bearing and among them pruning and use of growth retardants like paclobutrazol have become most effective. Hence an experiment was conducted to study the effect of pruning and paclobutrazol on fruit parameters of mango cv. Alphonso. The treatment T₁P₁ (pruning soon after harvest with no paclobutrazol application) showed highest fruit volume (195.5 cc), fresh fruit weight (276.59 g), ripe fruit weight (257.50 g), pulp weight (204.00 g) and lowest physiological loss in weight (6.90 %). The treatment T₁P₃ (pruning soon after harvest with 3 ml paclobutrazol application) showed highest fruit length. The highest TSS (19.85 °B), ascorbic acid content (39.77 mg/100g) and non-reducing sugar (9.95 %) was observed in the treatment T₁P₃ (pruning soon after harvesting with application of paclobutrazol 3ml/lit/meter) and the treatment T₁P₂ (pruning soon after harvesting with application of paclobutrazol 2ml/lit/meter) showed highest titratable acidity (0.57 %) and total sugar (14.88 %).

Keywords: Pruning, paclobutrazol, fruit physical, biochemical traits

Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) is the leading fruit crop of India, belonging to family Anacardiaceae and cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. It is considered to be a King of fruits because of its delicious taste, excellent flavor and attractive fragrance. Besides, it is rich in vitamin A and C. In India, mango occupies per cent of the total area under fruits comprising of 2.26 million hectares, with a total production of 19.69 million tonnes. Although, India is the largest mango producing country, accounting about 60 per cent of the world production (Anon., 2017) ^[10], but the productivity is low compare to other countries. Under Dharwad condition in Karnataka, there is a production of minor vegetative flush during October-December, which is the period, critical for fruit-bud differentiation. The trees have the tendency to develop extension growth on the matured shoot during the critical period of flower-bud differentiation which also hamper the chances of flowering (Ravishankar *et al.*, 1990) ^[21]. In fact, it has been observed that the alternation in cropping has a direct relation to alternate year occurrence of major flush under Dharwad condition (Rao, 1995) ^[19].

In this regard, some of the pruning and growth regulators could be used for induction of flowering directly on fruited shoots (Rao *et al.*, 1978) ^[20]. Therefore, there is a need for harnessing the potentiality of the fruited shoots to flower directly by the use of pruning and growth regulators. There are several operations involved in improving the yield and quality of mango fruits. Among them, pruning is one of the most important factors to sustain the yield and quality of fruits in mango. In general, compact and small trees capture and convert sunlight into fruit production in a better way than the larger ones. It can be enhanced by proper canopy management practices. For commercial fruit cultivation, the natural form and shape of fruit trees are to be modified through the practice of pruning to achieve the targeted yield by scientific approach. This is because; it is not always wise to allow a plant to develop naturally, since unwanted portions may develop at the expense of those which are essential. Appropriate pruning practices keep the plant in such shape and condition as to yield fruits of desired quality. Canopy management depends on the nature and growth pattern of plant, number of plants per hectare and pruning techniques.

Paclobutrazol has also been found predominantly effective in early flower induction in mango. It significantly influence the pattern of vegetative growth, flowering, yield and fruit quality attributes during normal season of Alphonso, predominantly grown in Konkan region on west coast of India (Burondkar *et al.*, 2000, 2005, 2013) [13, 11, 12]. Currently, use of paclobutrazol in July-August, is a standardized technology and recommended practice being used since 1992 for induction of regular flowering for producing crop during main season (March 15- May 30), over an area of more than 10,000 ha, with an estimated quantity of paclobutrazol 20,000 litres used every year (Burondkar and Gunjate, 2000) [13]. Hence an experiment was conducted to study the effect of pruning and paclobutrazol on physical and biochemical traits of mango cv. Alphonso.

Material and Methods

The investigation to know the effect of planting density and mulching on fruit parameters of mango cv. Alphonso was carried out in the mango orchard of the Regional Horticulture Research and Extension Center, Dharwad (University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot) during July-2013 to June- 2015. The Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Center is situated at 15°-16' Northern latitude, 70°-07' Eastern longitude and at an altitude of 678 m above the mean sea level. The soil of the experimental plot is red sandy loam, reddish brown colour, well drained having moderate water holding capacity. Dharwad has a transitional type of climate, which received the total rainfall of 733.8 mm during the year 2013-2014, whereas the rainfall was 761.3 mm during the period of study 2014 - 2015. Three year old mango orchard cv. Alphonso established during 2010 was selected for the experiment. Alphonso is one of the most preferred variety of mango and is grown mainly in the western part of India including the Konkan region of India. Alphonso is generally referred to as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Karnataka, it is also popularly also known as Appus, Badami, Gundu. It is used to make sweets, candies smoothies and mango drinks. Fruits are orange-yellow in colour, medium-sized and oval/oblong in shape. The average fruit length is 9.3 cm, width is 7.0 cm, weighing 250-350 g. The peel is thin and smooth, pulp is firm to soft, low in fiber, pulp is yellow and has pleasant taste and good eating quality. The seed is mono-embryonic large woody stone. The fruit matures in early to mid-season. The tree is moderately large and vigorous with a broadly rounded dense canopy.

The treatments of pruning was imposed in two seasons (2013-15), soon after harvest (T₁), 15 days after harvest (T₂) and 30 days after harvest (T₃) in the month of May (second forth night) and June (first and second forth night) and the branches are pruned fifteen centimeters. The spraying of paclobutrazol at different concentrations *i.e.* P₁- 0 ml/ lit/ m² of canopy (no application), P₂- 2 ml/ lit/ m² of canopy, P₃- 3 ml/ lit/ m² of canopy and P₄- 4 ml/ lit/ m² of canopy was done in month of August on different pruned plants as per the treatments adopted. The treatments were replicated thrice by following Factorial Randomized Complete Block Design. Five plants were selected in each treatment, totally one eighty plants which were having good growth were selected for recording observations. The data of the two years was pooled and statistically analysed.

The fruits from five tagged plants were used to record the observations the mean of physical and quality parameters of ten fruits was recorded. Fruit volume (cc) was determined by the conventional water displacement method, and the mean

was computed. Immediately after the harvest of the fruit the stalk was removed and the weight of raw fruit was recorded and later the ripe fruit weight was recorded. Matured fruits from each treatment were collected and kept for storage under ambient conditions. Physiological loss in weight was calculated by using the formula.

$$\text{Physiological loss in weight} = \frac{\text{Fresh fruit weight} - \text{ripe fruit weight}}{\text{Fresh fruit weight}} \times 100$$

Fruit diameter was measured at the widest portion of fruit and the length of the fruit from stalk end to the apex was determined with digital vernier calipers. The pulp, peel and stone were separated and then weighed and expressed in gram (g/fruit). The juice extracted by crushing the ripe pulp from the two halves of each fruit, separately was strained through muslin cloth and used for measuring total soluble solids. TSS was determined by Voisny Erma hand refractometer (0° to 32° range) and expressed in °Brix. Ascorbic acid content was estimated in mature fruits by 2, 6-dichlorophenolindophenol visual titration method and the values were expressed in milligrams per 100gram fresh edible portion at mature stage (Anon, 1984) [9]. Reducing sugar in the fruit sample preserved in 80 per cent alcohol was estimated as per the Dinitro Salicylic acid (DNSA) method reference. The value obtained was expressed as per cent on fresh weight basis and expressed in percentage (Miller, 1959) [18]. The per cent of non-reducing sugar was obtained by subtracting the values of reducing sugar from that of total sugar and multiply the same with 0.95 as correction factor and expressed in percentage. The total sugar in the sample was estimated by same method as that of reducing sugar after inversion of the non-reducing sugar using dilute hydrochloric acid and expressed in percentage (Anon, 1984) [9].

Results and Discussion

Early pruning not only regulates the canopy size but also ensures size and appearance of fruits through better exposure of branches and fruits. Any management practice system, besides increasing the productivity, should aim at the production of better fruits also. Similar results are obtained in present experiment with highest fruit volume (196.67 cc), fresh fruit weight (269.34 g), ripe fruit weight (246.75 g), fruit diameter (6.58 cm), fruit length (8.71 cm), pulp weight (196.63 g) and stone weight (27.88 g) in fruits obtained from plants pruned soon after harvesting (Table 1).

This is true in case of canopy management practices, wherein the main objective is to permit better aeration and light to fall on the inner parts of the trees, Similar results were observed in Kinnow by Ahmad *et al.* (2006) [11] and Singh *et al.* (2010b), Gopu (2011) [16] and Gopalan (2012) [12] in mango.

With respect to different treatments of paclobutrazol the treatment P₁ (control) has shown highest fresh fruit weight (178.69 g), ripe fruit weight (238.60 g), fruit diameter (6.44 cm), pulp weight (189.16 g) and all these parameters were on par with the treatment P₂ (2 ml). Similar results were observed in by Burondkar *et al.* (2000) [13] in which he reported that all the PBZ (2.5, 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 g/tree) treated mango trees recorded reduction in fruit size (224.0 to 230.1 g) as compared to untreated control (239.0 g). Paclobutrazol (2.5, 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 gm/tree) applied to plants through soil recorded more fruit set (10.8 to 14.4) per panicle over the control (8.8) leads to more fruits and less in size and weight of fruits in mango (Burondkar *et al.*, 2000) [13].

The treatment P₂ showed highest fruit volume (178.97 cc) and fresh fruit weight (253.66 g) and P₃ (3 ml) showed highest fruit length (8.63 cm). The paclobutrazol application (10 ml/tree) gave a positive effect on the number of fruits/tree over control in mango (Gopu 2011) [16]. Hasan *et al.* (2013) [3] found that application of paclobutrazol in the months of August and September (before 150 and 120 days of flower emergence) at 5 and 4 ml per meter of canopy spread showed positive influence for length of fruit, weight of fruit, width of fruit and fruit numbers. Similar results were noticed by Singh *et al.* (2010b) and Upreti *et al.* (2013) [14, 26] in mango.

With respect to interaction, the treatment T₁P₁ (pruning soon after harvest with no paclobutrazol application) showed highest fruit volume (195.5 cc), fresh fruit weight (276.59 g), ripe fruit weight (257.50 g), pulp weight (204.00 g) and lowest physiological loss in weight (6.90 %). The treatment T₁P₃ (pruning soon after harvest with 3 ml paclobutrazol application) showed highest fruit length. This might be due to early pruning not only regulates the canopy size but also ensures size and appearance of fruits through better exposure of branches, fruits and generally for better sink, better source is essential which is very much ensured in growth inhibitor applied plants. The results are in conformity to the earlier reports in sapota by Pradeepha (2004) [6] and Sathiya (2005) [23] and in mango by Venkatesan (2006) [27], Singh *et al.* (2010a) [24-25] and Upreti *et al.* (2013) [14, 26] in mango.

The highest TSS (19.11 °B), acidity (0.54 %), ascorbic acid content (38.72 mg/100g), non-reducing sugars (8.99 %) and total sugars (13.91 %) was observed in treatment T₁ (Table 2). Early pruning not only regulates the canopy size but also ensures quality, size and appearance of fruits through better exposure of branches and fruits to sun light. Any management practices, beside increasing the productivity, should aim at the production of better quality fruits also. The results are in conformity to the earlier reports in sapota by Pradeepha (2004) [6] and Sathiya (2005) [23] and in mango by Venkatesan (2006) [27], Pratap *et al.* (2009) [7] and Singh (2010b) [24-25]. This is true in the case of canopy management practices, wherein the main objective is to permit better aeration and light to fall on the inner parts of the trees, so that the developing fruits attain better colour and quality. Similar results were observed in Kinnow by Ahmad *et al.* (2006) [1] and in mango by Singh *et al.* (2010a) [24-25], Gopu (2011) [16] and Gopalan (2012) [2] mango.

With respect to different treatments of paclobutrazol the treatment P₃ (3 ml) showed highest TSS (19.38 °B), acidity (0.53 %), ascorbic acid (39.13 mg/100g) and it is on par the treatment P₂. The treatment P₂ showed highest total sugar (14.16 %), acidity (0.55 %) and it is on par with the treatment P₃.

Application of triazole is known to alter the source-sink relationship in the plant; directly or indirectly reallocating the carbohydrate resources. Higher fruit quality under these treatments may be attributed to the earliness in flowering which provided higher number of growing days and favoured biomass accumulation in the fruits finally improvement in the fruit quality. Generally, for better sink, better source is essential which is very much ensured in triazole applied plants. Further, the beneficial effects on quality of fruits may be due to better partitioning of assimilates to the sink.

The fruit qualities were formed better due to soil application of paclobutrazol than control (Hillier, 1991) [17]. Similar results as that of the findings of present investigation were also reported by Vijayalakshmi and Srinivasan (2002) [28], Yeshitela and Stassen (2005) [29], Karuna *et al.* (2007) [5], Jayavalli *et al.* (2009) [4], Adil *et al.* (2011) [8], Sarker and Rahim (2012) [22] and Hasan *et al.* (2013) [3] in mango. The application of paclobutrazol combined with ethephon also improves the fruit quality characters (Gnanasekaran, 2007) [15].

The interaction effect showed that highest TSS (19.85 °B), ascorbic acid content (39.77 mg/100g) and non-reducing sugar (9.95 %) was observed in the treatment T₁P₃ (pruning soon after harvesting with application of paclobutrazol 3ml/lit/meter) and the treatment T₁P₂ (pruning soon after harvesting with application of paclobutrazol 2ml/lit/meter) showed highest titratable acidity (0.57 %) and total sugar (14.88 %). This might be due to early pruning not only regulates the canopy size but also ensures quality, size and appearance of fruits through better exposure of branches and fruits to sun light. In paclobutrazol treated plants higher fruit quality may be attributed to the earliness in flowering which provided higher number of growing days and favored biomass accumulation in the fruits which finally improvement in the fruit quality. The results are in conformity to the earlier reports in sapota by Pradeepha (2004) [6] and Sathiya. (2005) [23] and in mango by Venkatesan (2006) [27], Pratap *et al.* (2009) [7] and Singh (2010b), Sarker and Rahim (2012) [22] and Hasan *et al.* (2013) [3] in mango.

Table 1: Effect of time of pruning and use of paclobutrazol on fruit physical parameters of mango cv. Alphonso

Treatments	Fruit volume (cc)	Fresh fruit weight (g)	Ripe fruit weight (g)	Physiological loss in weight (%)	Fruit diameter (cm)	Fruit length (cm)	Pulp weight (g)	Peel weight (g)	Stone weight (g)	Pulp to peel ratio (%)	Pulp to stone ratio (%)
Pruning (T)											
T ₁	196.67	269.34	246.75	8.15	6.58	8.71	196.63	22.26	27.88	0.114	0.142
T ₂	178.85	252.28	232.11	7.98	6.31	8.48	182.45	24.29	25.75	0.133	0.141
T ₃	155.06	223.72	201.78	9.88	6.05	8.14	160.8	19.31	22.22	0.122	0.139
S.Em±	2.93	2.18	0.83	0.21	0.05	0.04	2.46	0.33	0.25	0.003	0.003
CD @ 5%	8.58	6.51	2.44	0.61	0.16	0.12	7.35	0.98	0.73	0.008	0.007
Paclobutrazol (P)											
P ₁	178.69	260.03	238.6	8.28	6.44	8.37	189.16	23.44	27.28	0.124	0.144
P ₂	178.97	253.66	232.26	8.09	6.38	8.52	184.23	22.3	25.68	0.121	0.139
P ₃	173.89	243.99	222	9.13	6.2	8.63	179.28	20.06	22.67	0.113	0.126
P ₄	163.34	236.11	214.67	9.17	6.23	8.26	167.17	22.01	25.5	0.134	0.154
S.Em±	3.38	2.52	0.96	0.24	0.06	0.05	2.84	0.38	0.29	0.002	0.003
CD @ 5%	9.91	7.56	2.82	0.71	0.18	0.13	8.52	1.13	0.85	0.007	0.008
Interaction											
T ₁ P ₁	195.5	276.59	257.5	6.9	6.65	8.7	204	24	29.5	0.118	0.145

T ₁ P ₂	195	273	248	8.16	6.55	8.6	195.5	23.5	29	0.12	0.149
T ₁ P ₃	180	264.01	242.5	8.15	6.35	8.9	198.5	17.5	26.5	0.089	0.134
T ₁ P ₄	180.01	263.75	239.01	9.38	6.75	8.65	188.5	24.02	26.5	0.127	0.141
T ₂ P ₁	170	260.57	237.33	8.92	6.3	8.35	185.5	25.5	28	0.137	0.151
T ₂ P ₂	183.75	252.07	233.11	7.52	6.55	8.7	182.97	25	25	0.137	0.137
T ₂ P ₃	191.67	252.88	232.5	8.06	6.1	8.53	183.83	25.67	23	0.14	0.125
T ₂ P ₄	170	243.58	225.5	7.42	6.3	8.35	177.5	21	27	0.118	0.152
T ₃ P ₁	172.07	242.92	220.98	9.03	6.37	8.05	177.98	20.83	24.34	0.117	0.137
T ₃ P ₂	158.15	235.91	215.66	8.58	6.03	8.27	174.22	18.39	23.05	0.106	0.132
T ₃ P ₃	150	215.08	191	11.2	6.15	8.45	155.5	17	18.5	0.109	0.119
T ₃ P ₄	140	201	179.5	10.7	5.65	7.78	135.5	21	23	0.155	0.17
CV	9.32	8.93	8.14	7.99	8.23	11.15	10.01	9.23	8.78	13.99	9.21
S.Em±	5.85	4.37	1.67	0.42	0.11	0.08	4.92	0.67	0.5	0.005	0.005
CD @ 5%	17.17	12.81	4.99	1.22	0.32	0.23	14.44	1.96	1.47	0.015	0.015

Table 2: Effect of time of pruning and use of paclobutrazol on fruit quality parameters of mango cv. Alphonso

Treatments	TSS (°B)	Titrateable Acidity (%)	Ascorbic acid (mg per 100 g)	Reducing sugars (%)	Non reducing sugar (%)	Total sugar (%)
Pruning (T)						
T ₁	19.11	0.54	38.72	4.59	8.99	13.91
T ₂	18.71	0.51	38.29	4.91	8.39	13.47
T ₃	18.21	0.45	37.7	4.88	8.15	13.03
S.Em±	0.08	0.01	0.33	0.03	0.08	0.2
CD @ 5%	0.24	0.03	0.98	0.08	0.24	0.58
Paclobutrazol (M)						
P ₁	18.31	0.5	37.84	4.94	8.05	13.05
P ₂	19.24	0.55	38.66	4.79	8.8	14.16
P ₃	19.38	0.53	39.13	4.77	9.06	13.83
P ₄	17.78	0.42	37.32	4.67	8.15	12.85
S.Em±	0.1	0.01	0.38	0.03	0.1	0.23
CD @ 5%	0.28	0.03	1.13	0.09	0.28	0.68
Interaction						
T ₁ P ₁	18.83	0.51	38.2	4.71	8.51	13.22
T ₁ P ₂	19.57	0.57	39.04	4.53	9.14	14.88
T ₁ P ₃	19.85	0.56	39.77	4.42	9.95	14.37
T ₁ P ₄	18.19	0.5	37.85	4.69	8.37	13.18
T ₂ P ₁	18.27	0.55	37.95	5.01	7.87	13.04
T ₂ P ₂	19.28	0.54	38.71	4.83	8.82	14.14
T ₂ P ₃	19.7	0.56	39.41	4.92	9	13.92
T ₂ P ₄	17.6	0.4	37.1	4.9	7.89	12.79
T ₃ P ₁	17.83	0.42	37.38	5.11	7.78	12.89
T ₃ P ₂	18.86	0.54	38.25	5.03	8.43	13.46
T ₃ P ₃	18.6	0.48	38.19	4.96	8.23	13.19
T ₃ P ₄	17.53	0.35	37	4.41	8.17	12.59
CV	9.64	9.36	10.25	10.01	11.99	7.97
S.Em±	0.17	0.02	0.67	0.05	0.17	0.4
CD @ 5%	NS	0.05	NS	0.16	0.49	NS

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