

Surfactants Applied as Blossom Thinners Reduce Fruit Set and Increase Fruit Size and Quality of 'Harrow Diamond' Peaches

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Objectives:

- To assess the efficacy of selected surfactants and organic oil sprays on thinning peaches for improved fruit size and quality
- To evaluate some alternatives for organic fruit production

Experimental Details:

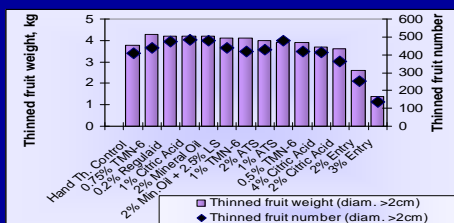
- 'Harrow Diamond' peach on Bailey rootstock
- RCBD with 6 single tree replications
- Sprayed at 80% Full Bloom

Treatments applied:

Untreated Control; Hand Thinned Control; Regulaid (0.2%); ATS (1, 2%); Entry (2, 3%); Tergitol TMN-6 (0.50, 0.75, and 1.00%); Citric Acid (1, 2, 4%); Organic Oil (2%); Organic Oil (2%) plus Lime Sulphur (2.5%)

Results:

- Significant reduction in thinned fruit weight and number



- Increased fruit size

Untreated Control



3% Entry

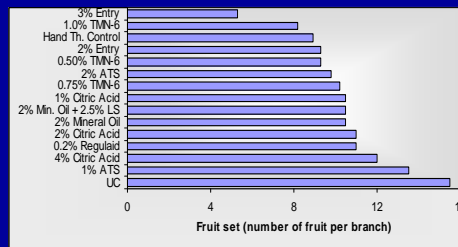
- Reduced fruit set



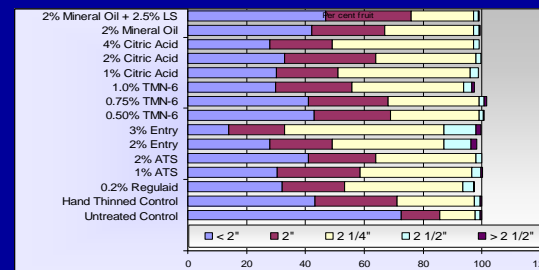
Untreated Control



3% Entry



- Improved fruit quality and fruit size distribution



- Entry at rates of 2% and 3% was the most effective blossom thinner on 'Harrow Diamond' peach in 2004