

APPLICATION OF 2,4-D (CITRUSFIX) FOR FRUIT SIZE INCREASE OF MANDARINS AND MANDARIN HYBRIDS IN CALIFORNIA

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2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (CitrusFix) was applied to 'Afourer' mandarin in S. Kern County and 'Minneola' tangelo in Madera from 2003 to 2005 season. Both experiments included combination treatments of three concentration (12, 24, and 48 ppm) and two timings (2 wks and 4 wks after 75% petal fall, dapf) and non-spray control. The 48 ppm, 2 wks dapf treatment was able to increase large sized fruit (including large- jumbo-mammoth sizes) of 'Afourer' mandarin by 13.3%, 24.1% and 35.8% for 2003, 2004 and 2005 seasons, respectively (average 25.1% increase over three seasons). This treatment was able to increase large sized fruit by 13,570 kg/ha, an estimated additional net income of \$5,437/ha over three years. 24 ppm of 2,4-D, 30 dapf application was able to increase large sized fruit (including jumbo-mammoth-colossal sizes) of 'Minneola' tangelo by 6.8%, 24.8%, and 2.9% in 2003, 2004 and 2005 seasons, respectively. I will discuss benefit, problems and potential permanent registration of this use in California.

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