

EFFECTS OF PRUNING ON AUXIN AND CYTOKININ LEVELS AND
SUBSEQUENT SHOOT REGROWTH OF DIFFERENT GROWTH HABITS
OF PEACH

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Peach tree (*Prunus persica*) growth habits that have vertical branches and narrow crowns (Pillar growth habit) are being developed for high density plantings. Previous research indicated that shoots of Pillar contained higher auxin concentrations than did Standard trees. High auxin levels may contribute to strong apical control of growth. In addition, lower cytokinin/auxin ratios in Pillar shoots may contribute to reduced sylleptic growth. It was hypothesized that pruning may differentially affect the hormonal and the branching patterns in these different growth habits. Current research on the effects of pruning on auxin and cytokinin concentrations in Pillar and Standard peach trees will be discussed.