

EFFECT OF CYTOKININS ON YIELD OF ICEBERG LETTUCE

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The effect of field applications of cytokinin solutions (5 ppm) on fresh weight and size of iceberg lettuce was investigated. A first trial included 6-benzylaminopurine (6-BAP) and kinetin applied three times after head formation or once two weeks prior to harvest. All four cytokinin treatments produced larger heads than the control. Lettuce treated with 6-BAP once two weeks before harvest and those treated with kinetin three times before harvest were heavier than the control. A second trial was conducted to evaluate the effect of HappyGro®, a commercial kinetin and vitamin formula, on weight and size of lettuce at harvest. Lettuce heads treated with HappyGro® three times before harvest were 6% heavier and 4% larger than the control. HappyGro® applied once before harvest also produced larger heads than the control. These results suggest that cytokinins may be a viable approach to increase yield of iceberg lettuce if the chemicals were approved for such use.