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EFFECTS OF BIOSTIMULANTS ON NURSERY GROWTH OF ORANGE BUDDED ON VOLKAMER LEMON (*CITRUS VOLKAMERIANA*) AND ‘SWINGLE’ CITRUMELO (*C. PARADISI* x *PONCIRUS TRIFOLIATA*)

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Nursery experiments were conducted to determine the effects of the growth stimulators (a) gibberellic acid 3, (b) acetylthioproline, (c) a commercial mixture of amino acids, indolacetic acid, gibberellic acid and zeatin [Biozyme®], (d) a commercial *Ascophyllum nodosum* extract [Stimplex®], and (e, f) two commercial mixtures of amino acids, peptides, proteins, humic acid, folic acid and vitamins [Maxiroot® and Biofert®] on the growth of ‘Valencia’ orange budded on the rootstocks volkamer lemon (*Citrus volkameriana*) and ‘Swingle’ citrumelo (*Citrus paradisi* x *Poncirus trifoliata*). The biostimulants were sprayed on the plant canopies every two weeks after orange buds started growing and until transplants reached the transplanting stage. Transplant growth was affected by all the stimulators. The best overall results were found with the *A. nodosum* extract (0.05-0.15%), which resulted in increased root, leaf, and stem dry weight by 22, 29, and 16%, respectively.