1-MCP SPRAY FOR CANTALOUPE: FRUIT SET AND YIELD
D.I. Leskovar* and S. Agehara
Texas AgriLife Research, VFIC, Dept. Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M System, Uvalde, TX 78801
Foliar application of 1-MCP during flowering has been investigated on fruit set and yield of cantaloupe cv. Mission. Experiments were conducted at two planting dates (early and late) in the spring on a commercial field located in the Wintergarden of Texas. Standard growing practices for melon were followed. 1-MCP at 10 g a.i. ha⁻¹ was applied at three timings 7, 14 and 7+14 days after the appearance of the first female flower. Early fruit set was increased by 1-MCP in the late planting. In both planting dates, there was a trend for 1-MCP to increase marketable yield, response that was associated with an increase in fruit size and the percentage of marketable fruits. In order to validate these responses, a new set of experiments are currently being conducted on the same cultivar under subsurface drip irrigation and plasticulture.