



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.03

TPI 2020; 9(7): 389-391

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[www.thepharmajournal.com](http://www.thepharmajournal.com)

Received: 20-05-2020

Accepted: 22-06-2020

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## Effect of foliar application of boron and GA<sub>3</sub> on yield and yield attributing parameters of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Lalit

**Surbhi Goyal, Karan Vir Singh, Vikas Mandloi and Devendra Vishvkarma**

### Abstract

An experiment entitled “Effect of foliar application of Boron and GA<sub>3</sub> on growth, yield and quality of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Lalit” was conducted at University guava orchard, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Gwalior during *Mrig bahar* at 2016-17. The experimental was laid out in the randomized block design with three replications and total treatment combination nine. Result based on investigation study revealed that the highest value of yield and yield attributing parameters *i.e.*, Number of fruits per tree (243.91), Average fruit weight (181.67 g), Yield per tree (44.76 kg) and maximum benefit cost ratio of 1:4.7 was recorded with B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> followed by 1: 4.3 in B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>1</sub> and 1: 3.9 in B<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub>. Conclude that the best treatment combination B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> with respect of yield attributing characters and economics of treatments of guava.

**Keywords:** Foliar application, boron, GA<sub>3</sub>, yield, yield attributing, guava, Lalit etc.

### Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.), the apple of the tropics, is one of the most popular fruit grown in tropical, sub-tropical and some parts of arid regions of India. The fruit are quite hardy and prolific bearer belongs to the family Myrtaceae. It is originated from tropical America and seems to have been growing from Mexico to Peru. The total area under its cultivation in India is 268.2 thousand ha with an annual production of 3668 thousand MT, productivity is 13.7 MT/ha, whereas in Madhya Pradesh, the area, production and productivity of guava is 22.4 thousand ha, 841.1 thousand MT and 37.6 MT/ha, respectively NHB, 2014 [4]. Guava claims superiority over several other fruits because of its commercial and nutritional values. It is a rich and cheap source of vitamin C and pectin (a polysaccharide substance). It ranks third in vitamin C content (260 mg/100 g) after barbados cherry and aonla Phandis, 1970 and Rathore, 1979 [5, 6]. Guava contains 2 to 5 times more vitamin C than fresh orange juice. Besides, it is an excellent source of pectin (0.5-1.8%) but has low energy (66 cal /100g). The ripe fruits contain 12.3-26.3% dry matter, 77.9-86.9% moisture, 0.51-1.02% ash, 0.10-0.70% crude fat, 0.82-1.45% crude protein and 2.0-7.2% crude fiber. Guava fruit is considered as one of the delicious fruits. It is pleasantly sweet and refreshingly acidic in flavor and emits sweet aroma. It is wholly edible along with the skin. Several delicious preserved products like Jam, Jelly, Cheese, Puree, Ice cream, canned fruit and Sherbat are prepared from ripe fruits of guava. Guava juice wine and guava pulp wine are also prepared from guava fruits. The seeds yield 3 to 13% oil, which is rich in essential fatty acid and can be used as salad dressing Adsule and Kalam, 1995 [1]. In some countries, the leaves are used for curing and also for dyeing and tanning.

### Method and material

The present investigation entitled “Effect of foliar application of Boron and GA<sub>3</sub> on growth, yield and quality of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Lalit.” was conducted at University guava orchard, Department of Horticulture (Fruit Science), College of Agriculture, RVSKVV, Gwalior (M.P) during 2016-17. The experimental was laid out in the randomized block design with three replications and total treatment combination nine *viz.*, foliar spray of three levels of boron (0, 0.2 and 0.4%), three levels of GA<sub>3</sub> (0, 50 and 100 ppm) were applied. Aqueous solutions of boron and GA<sub>3</sub> were sprayed at the time of full bloom. the sprays under treatment were done on rainy season crop (*Mrig bahar*) at full bloom stage in early morning with the

help of foot sprayer @ five liters per tree to ensure the maximum absorption of nutrients through the leaves. Each tree was sprayed thoroughly in such a way as to completely drench it with the spray solution.

Micronutrient solutions of boric acid (0.2 and 0.4%) were prepared by dissolving 8 g and 16 g and 30 g boric acid in four liters of supernatant lime water (by dissolving 100 g hydrated lime in tap water) Sidhu *et al.*, 1980 [8]. The solutions of plant growth regulator used i.e. GA<sub>3</sub> (50 ppm and 100 ppm) was prepared by weighing (50 mg and 100 mg) GA<sub>3</sub> separately with the help of digital balance. This was dissolved in 95% 10 ml alcohol, respectively. Thereafter, 1000 ml of distilled water was added to it and stirred with a glass rod, so that GA<sub>3</sub> would thoroughly mix with distilled water. The observation was recorded of yield and yield attributing parameters i.e., Number of fruits per tree (243.91), Average fruit weight (181.67 g), Yield per tree (44.76 kg) selected under each plant within each treatment.

**Results and discussion**

**A. Yield and yield attributes**

Data pertaining to number of fruits per tree are presented in Table 1-3. It is clear from data that effect of different treatments was very striking on number of fruits per tree. Number of fruits per tree ranged from 108.33 to 243.91. The maximum number of fruits per tree 243.91 was noted in treatment B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.4% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm) followed by 230.57 in B<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.2% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm). The minimum (108.33) number of fruits per tree was noted in B<sub>0</sub>G<sub>0</sub>.

The highest average fruit weight 181.67 g was recorded in treatment B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.4% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm) followed by 178.65 g in B<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.2% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm). The minimum (133.21 g) average fruit weight was noted in B<sub>0</sub>G<sub>0</sub>.

The highest yield per tree 44.76 kg was recorded in treatment B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.4% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm) followed by 41.28 kg in B<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.2% and GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm). The minimum (14.45 kg) yield per tree was noted in B<sub>0</sub>G<sub>0</sub>.

The data pertaining to various yield attributing parameters of the guava plant viz; number of fruits per plant, average weight per fruit, and yield per plant are significantly increased by the various sprays of GA<sub>3</sub>. The maximum number of fruits per plant, maximum weight of fruit and the maximum fruit yield per plant were recorded under the treatment G<sub>2</sub> (GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm), which were the significantly superior to the other levels of GA<sub>3</sub>, followed by G<sub>1</sub> (GA<sub>3</sub> @ 50 ppm) whereas, minimum number of fruits per plant, average weight of fruit and yield per plant were recorded under control (G<sub>0</sub>). Increase in fruit weight may be attributed to the strengthening of middle lamella and consequently cell wall, which later may have increased the free passage of solutes to the fruits. Srivastava

*et al;* (1973) [10] confirmed the effective role of GA<sub>3</sub> in increasing fruit weight. Biswas *et al;* (1988) [2] reported that the increased fruit weight following GA<sub>3</sub> application might be due to greater size of fruit and certain changes in metabolism of fruit which reflected in more accumulation of water and enhanced deposition of soluble solids. The same was also seen by Kumar (2013) [3], Singh (2008) [9] and Sukla (2011) [7].

**Economies of different treatment**

Data pertaining to number of fruits per tree are presented in Table 4. The maximum benefit cost ratio of 1:4.7 was recorded with B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>2</sub> followed by 1: 4.3 in B<sub>2</sub>G<sub>1</sub> and 1: 3.9 in B<sub>1</sub>G<sub>2</sub>. It makes sure that the increasing concentration of boron and GA<sub>3</sub> shows maximum benefit cost ratio, while the lower benefit cost ratio was found under the control (B<sub>0</sub>G<sub>0</sub>).

**Table 1:** Effect of boron, GA<sub>3</sub> and their combinations on number of fruits per tree

Treatments	Number of fruits per tree			
	G <sub>0</sub>	G <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	Mean
B <sub>0</sub>	108.33	157.08	206.95	157.45
B <sub>1</sub>	138.46	196.58	230.57	188.54
B <sub>2</sub>	199.04	223.20	243.91	222.05
Mean	148.61	192.29	227.14	
	B	G	B x G	
S.Em.	8.45	8.45	14.64	
CD <sub>at 0.5%</sub>	25.33	25.33	NS	

**Table 2:** Effect of boron, GA<sub>3</sub> and their combinations on average fruit weight (g)

Treatments	Average fruit weight (g)			
	G <sub>0</sub>	G <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	Mean
B <sub>0</sub>	133.21	145.20	165.62	148.01
B <sub>1</sub>	138.53	148.45	178.65	155.21
B <sub>2</sub>	142.29	164.76	181.67	162.91
Mean	138.01	152.80	175.31	
	B	G	B x G	
S.Em.	2.50	2.50	4.33	
CD <sub>at 0.5%</sub>	7.50	7.50	NS	

**Table 3:** Effect of boron, GA<sub>3</sub> and their combinations on yield per tree (kg)

Treatments	Yield per tree (kg)			
	G <sub>0</sub>	G <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	Mean
B <sub>0</sub>	14.45	22.81	34.22	23.83
B <sub>1</sub>	19.18	29.19	41.28	29.88
B <sub>2</sub>	28.33	36.81	44.76	36.63
Mean	20.65	29.60	40.09	
	B	G	B x G	
S.Em.	1.09	1.09	1.89	
CD <sub>at 0.5%</sub>	3.27	3.27	NS	

**Table 4:** Economics of various treatments

	Common cost ₹	Treatment cost ₹	Total cost ₹	Yield/tree (kg)	y/ha (kg)	Income ₹	Profit ₹	b:c
B <sub>0</sub> G <sub>0</sub>	55000	0	55000	14.45	4003.30	120098.9	65098.89	1.2
B <sub>0</sub> G <sub>1</sub>	55000	4653.6	59653.6	19.18	5313.85	159415.4	99761.77	1.7
B <sub>0</sub> G <sub>2</sub>	55000	5429.2	60429.2	28.33	7846.45	235393.4	174964.2	2.9
B <sub>1</sub> G <sub>0</sub>	55000	2548.4	57548.4	22.81	6318.89	189566.7	132018.3	2.3
B <sub>1</sub> G <sub>1</sub>	55000	7202	62202	29.19	8084.43	242532.8	180330.8	2.9
B <sub>1</sub> G <sub>2</sub>	55000	7977.6	62977.6	36.81	10197.54	305926.1	242948.5	3.9
B <sub>2</sub> G <sub>0</sub>	55000	4542.8	59542.8	34.22	9480.25	284407.6	224864.8	3.8
B <sub>2</sub> G <sub>1</sub>	55000	9196.4	64196.4	41.28	11434.35	343030.6	278834.2	4.3
B <sub>2</sub> G <sub>2</sub>	55000	9972	64972	44.76	12284.53	368536	303564	4.7

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the experiment, it may be concluded that for better growth and development, efficient production of guava and maintenance of soil productivity, it is judicial to use different micronutrients with plant growth regulators with recommended dose of NPK. Application of micronutrients is one of the important management practices to improve soil productivity. Crop growth, development, yield and profit are important to a farmer. Soil health is also very important for sustainable production. Higher yield may also be achieved using plant growth regulators.

Furthermore, the present result on guava concludes that different treatments significantly increased various growth, yield and quality parameters in comparison to control. Besides it, higher concentrations all of boron and GA<sub>3</sub> helped more to achieve the desired value for different growth, yield and quality parameters. The best interaction of B<sub>2</sub> (Boron @ 0.4%) and G<sub>2</sub> (GA<sub>3</sub> @ 100 ppm) proved in increasing the characters which were studied. So, it may be recommended at farmer's level for profitable crop production without affecting the soil health. Thus, considering crop productivity, economic return and soil fertility together combined application of micronutrient and plant growth regulators may be helpful for sustainable crop production.

## Acknowledgements

The corresponding authors are grateful thanks to Dr. R. Lekhi (Head of dept) and Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Gwalior (M.P.) for providing necessary facilities to carry out the research work.

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