

EFFECT OF PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS ON FLOWERING AND FRUIT QUALITY IN PAPAYA (*CARICA PAPAYA* L.) CV. CO-2

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ABSTRACT : The experiment consisting of thirteen treatments replicated three times was laid out in randomized block design. The experimental findings revealed that, Ethrel Cycocel and MH induced early flowering. Treatment with all the plant growth regulators significantly increased female flowers, fruits per tree and fruit set percentage. NAA was found to be most effective amongst the plant growth regulants. All the treatments bore fruits at lesser height from ground level and required minimum days for fruit maturity from flowering as compared to control. MH was found to be the most effective plant growth regulator regarding the weight of the fruit, volume of fruit, cavity width and TSS of fruits. Whereas CCC-1000ppm and CCC-1500ppm recorded pronounced effect regarding fruit thickness. CCC-500ppm recorded maximum ascorbic acid content in fruit. Acidity content in fruit was significantly lower in ethrel (0.12-0.15%). Highest yield of fruits was recorded in all the concentrations of MH treatments (600,400 and 200ppm) and lowest in control.

Key Words : Plant growth regulators, fruit quality, papaya Co-2, cycocel, MH.