Technical Data Report

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Effects of NUTRIPLANT™ AG on Quality of Blueberry Fruits

Objective

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects of Nutriplant AG on size of blueberry fruits.

Materials and Methods

A field trial was conducted in a commercial blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* cv. O'Neal) plantation located at Linares, Chile. Two uniform, one-hectare sections of the field were selected for the trial. One section was treated with Nutriplant AG the other was left untreated as control. Nutriplant AG was applied three times at a rate of 2 l/ha: at fruit set and again 7 and 14 days later. Cultural practices, including fertilization and pest management followed local practices and were the same for treated and control sections. Fruits were harvested commercially and packaged in clamshell containers. Fruit quality was evaluated at the beginning and in the middle of harvest. Random samples of 36 clamshell containers, approximately 150 grams each, were collected from each treated and control sections of the field. Collected fruits, approximately 3,600 per harvest, were counted and weighed to determine average berry mass.

Results

Nutriplant AG application increased the average mass of blueberry fruits. For the first sampling at the beginning of harvest, Nutriplant AG application resulted in increased average fruit mass from 1.351 to 1.737 grams, an increase of 28.6% over the control (Figure 1). The second sampling in the middle of the harvest, showed an increase from 1.638 to 2.151 grams per fruit, a 31.3% increase over the control.

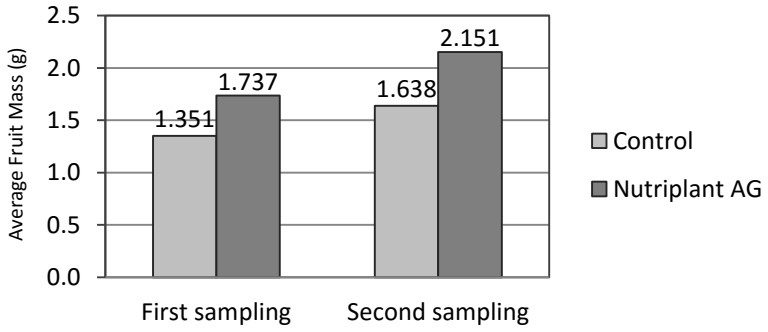

Figure 1. Effects of Nutriplant AG on fruit mass of O'Neal blueberry fruits. Linares, Chile.

Conclusions

Compared to the untreated control, Nutriplant AG treatment increased average fruit mass of O'Neal blueberry fruits by 28.6 and 31.3 % at the beginning and the middle of harvest, respectively.