

Effect of some growth regulators and fertilizer on growth and fruiting of (*Vitis vinifera* L.) grapevines

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The present study was carried out during two consecutive seasons of (1993 / 1994) and 1994 / 1995) on 12 years old Thompson Seedless grapevines, growing in a clay loamy soil in a private vineyard at Samannud region Gharbia Governorate, Egypt to study the effect of some growth regulators i.e. Dormex (H_2CN_2), GA3 and NAA and nutrient elements i.e. Zn S04, KN_3 and urea, on growth and fruiting of Seedless grapevines. The study was dealing with spraying the dormant one year old wood only canes after pruning with the following growth regulators and nutrient solutions. 1- Control (vines were sprayed with water). 2- Dormex (H_2CN_2) at 1.250/0. 3- Donnex (H_2CN_2) at 2.50/0. 4- Donnex (H_2CN_2) at 5% . 5- GA3 at 50 ppm. 6- GA3 at 1000 ppm. 7- NAA at 25 ppm. 8- NAA at 250 ppm. 9- KN_3 at 5%. 10- Zn S04 at 25% . 11- Urea at 10 %. The above treatments were sprayed once at the following dates. On 15 Dec., Jan., and Feb. 19. The experiment was designed according to the randomized completely block design to study the following: 1- The effect of these treatments on the phenological phases of the grapevines i.e. Time of the beginning of budburst, beginning of blooming, end of blooming, beginning of ripening stage (Veraison) and date of harvesting. 2- The buds free amino acids, total soluble and non-soluble sugars contents. 3- Bud behaviour (budburst percentage, fruitful shoots % and number of clusters per vine). 4- Yield per vine. 5- Physical properties of clusters and berries. 6- Fruit quality (T.S.S. sugar and total acidity). The obtained results could be summarized as follows: - The effect of spraying some growth regulators and nutrient elements on the phenological phases. 1- Budburst: a- Spraying grapevines at dormant season with Donnex (H_2CN_2) caused an earliness of budburst from 66 to 7 days depending upon the concentration and date of spraying, the early application and high concentration (2.5 and 50/0) were more effective in this respect. b- Spraying KN_3 at 5% and urea at 10 % enhanced budburst with a few days. c- Spraying GA3, NAA and Zn S04 delayed budburst than the control. d- GA3 application at 50 and 1000 ppm and NAA at 250 ppm gave the latest budburst, since these treatments delayed the budburst by about 10 to 14 days than the control. e- The more effective treatments on delaying budburst were GA3 on January 1st and NAA on February 1st at high concentration. 2- Time of Blooming: a- Donnex (H_2CN_2) at 15 Dec. caused an earliness in time of beginning of blooming by 40 to 50 and 32 to 39 days, in the first and second seasons respectively. While in the later application Feb 1st was from 10 to 21 and from 16-21 days in the first and second seasons respectively. b- Application of urea at 10 % advanced blooming date from 5 to 13 and 10 to 18 days than the control in the first and second seasons respectively. c- Conversely GA3 application and Zn S04 at two early dates and NAA at the two later dates delayed time of blooming in comparison with the control. 3- Time of Harvesting: a- Donnex (H_2CN_2) was more effective agents in earliness in harvesting date of Thompson Seedless grape the number of earliness in days ranged from 20 to 30 days in two seasons of study in comparison with the control. b- Urea application at 10 % at 15 Jan. and Feb. 1st advanced harvesting date by about 10 to 15 days than the control in the two seasons of study. c- Also spraying grapevines with KN_3 at 50/0 on Jan 1st, 15 Jan and Feb. 1st advanced harvesting date by about 10-20 days. d- On the other hand GA3 application at 50 and 1000 ppm and NAA at 25 and 250 ppm delayed harvesting time by about 5 to 10 days. 11- Chemical Composition of Buds at Dormancy. 1- Total free amino acids. Total free amino acids buds content were significantly affected with nutrient elements and the date of spraying. The

highest values in this respect resulted from spraying Donnex(H_2CN_2) at 5, 2.5 and 1.25 0/0. Also applying KN_3 at 5%, Zn 504 at 250/0 and urea at 10 % significantly increased total free amino acids buds content than the control but less than Donnex (H_2CN_2). The lowest values resulted from spraying GA3 at 50, 1000 ppm and NAA at 25, 250 ppm in both seasons of study. Also applying these agents on 15 Jan. and Feb. 1~ were more effective in this respect.

2- Total soluble sugars, Applying Donnex (H_2CN_2) at 1.25, 2.5 and 5% KN_3 at 5 % and urea at 10 % in the first season significantly increased total soluble buds content at dormancy in comparison with the control. Also using above agents except urea at 10 % significantly increased total soluble sugars of buds content than the control. On the other hand applying GA3 at 50, 1000 ppm and NAA at 25, 250 ppm and Zn 804 at 25% and urea at 10 % gave the lowest values in this respect. Using Dormex (H_2CN_2) at 50/0 on February 1st gave the highest values in this respect, while using GA3 at 1000 ppm on 15 Dec. gave the lowest values in the two seasons of study.

3- Total non-soluble sugars. Spraying Thompson seedless grapevines at dormant season with GA3 at 50, 100 ppm and NAA at 250 ppm and Zn 504 at 250/0 significantly increased total non-soluble sugars content of buds in comparison with the control and other agents used in this respect during the two seasons of study, NAA at 25 and 250 ppm gave the highest values in this respect. On the other hand using Dormex (H_2CN_2) at 5% gave the lowest values in two seasons of study. Also applying NAA at 25, 250 ppm on 15 Dec gave the highest values in this respect in both seasons of study, while spraying urea at 10% on Feb. 1st in the first season and H_2CN_2 at 5% on Feb. 1st gave the lowest values in this respect. Spraying above agents at 15 December gave the highest values from total non-soluble buds contents then declined to the lowest values at February 1~ during the two seasons of study.

III : Bud Behaviour

1- Budburst percentage: Generally the obtained results revealed that early Donnex (hydrogencyanamide) application i.e. at 15 Dec. and Jan. 1~ increased budburst percentage, over the control in the two seasons of study. Also spraying with GA3 at 1000 ppm on 15 Dec., Zn 504 at 15 Dec. and Jan. 1~ and urea at Feb. 1~ increased budburst over the control, in the two seasons of study.

2- Fruitful shoots Percentage per Vine: Application of Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide) at 2.5 and 5 % had significantly the greatest percentage of fruitful shoots in both seasons of study. While spraying with GA3 at 50 and 1000 ppm took the other way around. The highest values were obtained, when Donnex (hydrogencyanamide) at 2.5 and 5%, NAA at 25 ppm and Zn 504 at 25% were sprayed on Feb. 1~. Moreover spraying NAA at 250 ppm on 15 Dec., KNO_3 , at 5% on 15 Dec. and 15 Jan. and urea on 15 Jan. also significantly increased percentage of fruitful shoots over the control in the first season. In the second season spraying hydrogen cyanamide at all used concentrations on early date 15 Dec. increased fruitful shoots present than the control. While the best treatments in this respect were spraying Dormex (H_2CN_2) at 2.5 and 5; 0/0 on Feb. 1st and KN_3 on 15 JAN. On the other hand all other treatments decreased the percent of fruitful shoots in the second season.

3- Number of Clusters per Vine. Spraying dormex (hydrogen cyanamide) at 2.5 and 5 % and Zn 504 at 25 % significantly increased number of flower clusters per vine in the first and second seasons respectively. Conversely all other agents used take the other way around. In addition the later spraying dates i.e. 15 Jan. and Feb. 1~ induced the highest number of flower clusters per vine regardless of agents used in the two seasons of study.

IV. Yield per Vine:

a- Spraying Zn 804 at 25 % on all dates of spraying gave the highest yield.

b- Spraying with Donnex (H_2CN_2) at 2.5 and 5 0/0 concentrations on two later dates i.e. 15 January and February 1~, also produced significantly higher yield, on the other hand lower concentration 1.25 0/0 of Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide,) on early spraying dates 15 Dec. and Jan. 1~ significantly decreased the yield than the control especially in the second season.

c- Application of GA3 at 50 and 1000 ppm on the two later dates 15 Jan. and Feb. 1~ significantly increased the yield.

d- Application of urea at 10 % ppm on 15 Jan. and Feb. 1~ significantly increased the yield over the control, but somewhat less than the above treatments.

e- Application of NAA and KN_3 in the second season decreased the yield than the control.

V. Physical Properties of Clusters and Berries :

1- Cluster Weight: In general all used treatments except application of Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide) at 1.25 % significantly increased cluster weight than the control, in the two seasons of study. Moreover the heaviest clusters were obtained by spraying GA3 at 1000 and 50 ppm and Zn 504 at 25 % conversely spraying H_2CN_2 at 1.25 0/0 on Dec. and Jan. 1~ significantly decreased cluster weight.

2- Berry Weight: Application of Donnex (H_2CN_2), GA3 and

Zn S04 at dormant seasons significantly increased berry weight than the control during the two seasons of study. Moreover application of Donnex (H₂CN₂) at 1.25, 2.5 and 50/0 concentrations gave the highest berry weight. On the other hand NAA spraying significantly reduced weight of berries than the control.

3- Cluster Stem Percentage: All treatments used significantly increased cluster stem percentage in comparison with the control during the two seasons of study. Moreover GA₃ at 50 and 1000 ppm, urea at 10 % and Zn S04 at 2.5 % were the most effective in this respect.

4- Cluster Length: All used treatments except Donnex (H₂CN₂) significantly increased cluster length than the control during the two seasons of study. Furthermore GA₃ at 50 and 1000 ppm and Zn S04 at 25 o/D gave the highest significant effect in this respect. On the other hand Dormex (hydrogen cyanamide) application decreased cluster length than the control.

5- Cluster Width: All used agents except Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide) significantly decreased cluster width than the control during the two seasons of study. Moreover spraying Thompson Seedless grapevines with NAA at 25 and 250 ppm at all spraying dates gave the lowest values in this respect, during the two seasons of study.

6- Berry Length: Spraying Thompson Seedless grapevines at dormant season with Donnex (H₂CN₂) at 2.5 and 5 %, GA₃ at 50 and 1000 ppm and Zn S04 at 250/0, significantly increased berry length than the control and other treatments in the two seasons of study.

7- Berry Width: All used treatments except Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide) at 2.5 and 50/0 concentrations, significantly decreased berry width than the control. On the other hand application of Donnex (hydrogen cyanamide), at 2.5 and 50/0 significantly increased berry width than the control during the two seasons of study.

8- Berry Length / Width (Shape index): All used treatments significantly increased berry length / width (Shape index) than the control during the two seasons of study. Furthermore GA₃ application at 50 and 1000 ppm, Zn S04 at 25 % and KN03 at 5 % had the highest values in this respect.

9- Juice Percentage: The application of GA₃ at 1000 ppm was the only treatment that significantly decreased the juice percentage in comparison with the control and other treatments, during the two seasons of study while application of KN01 at 5 % gave the highest values in this respect, in the two seasons of study.

10- Peel Percentage: The application of GA₃ at low and high (50 and 1000 ppm) concentrations gave the highest peel percentage during the two seasons of study. On the other hand application of KN03 at 5 % significantly decreased peel percentage than the control, during the two seasons of study.

Berry Carnical Characteristics: ToSoSo Percentage at harvesting date Spraying Thompson Seedless grapevines with Donnex (H₂CN₂) at 1.25, 2.5 and 50/0, KN03 at 5% and urea at 10% at all spraying dates gave the highest T.S.S. percentage in comparison with the control and other used agents during the two seasons of study. On the other hand application of GA₃ at 50 and 1000 ppm, NAA at 25 and 250 ppm and Zn S04 at 25% at all spraying dates gave the lowest values in this respect.

2- Total Acidity%: Spraying grapevines at dormant season with Donnex (H₂CN₂) at 1.25, 2.5 and 5 % and KN03 at 5% decreased significantly acidity percentage of berries juice than the control during the two seasons of study. On the contrary the application of GA₃ at 50 and 1000 ppm and NAA at 25 and 250 ppm at dormant season significantly increased the total acidity in berry juice than the control, during the two seasons of study.

3- T.S.S / Acid Ratio: The application of Donnex (H₂CN₂), KN03 and urea induced the highest values of T.S.S. / acid ratio. While application of GA₃, NAA and Zn S04 had the lowest values in this respect, the differences between each of these treatments and the control were statistically significant.

Form the results obtained in our investigation it can be concluded spraying Thompson Seedless grapevines with Donnex (H₂CN₂) at 1.25, 2.5 and 5.00/0, KN03 at 5.00/0 and Urea at 10 % induced earlier budburst, blooming and ripening. On the other hand, applying GA₃ at 50, 1000 ppm, NAA at 25, 250 ppm and Zn S04 at 25 % delayed budburst, blooming and ripening. Donnex (H₂CN₂) was more effective in inducing earlier harvesting date. Also applying KN03 at 5 % and Urea at 10.0% advanced harvesting date but less than Donnex (H₂CN₂) alone. The study showed that applying Donnex (H₂CN₂), KN03, Zn 804, Urea and GA₃ improved berry quality and yield. Under similar conditions of this research application of Dormex (H₂CN₂) at 2.5 % it can be recommended at mid of Jan. and Feb I~, KN03 at 5.0 % and Urea at 10.0 % on one-year old wood during dormancy can be recommended to induce early ripening of Thompson Seedless grapevines. from obtaining higher yield spraying GA₃ at 50 ppm, Zn S04 at 25 % and NAA at 25, 250 ppm at dormant season can also be recommended.