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Effect of succinic acid 2,2 Dimethyl-Hydrazine (SADH) on shoot growth, flower and bud differentiation and nut production of young almond trees

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RESUME-ABSTRACT

The experiments were conducted in the area of Macrochoriou, Veroia, Northern Greece, on young trees of two almond cultivars, which, at beginning of the experiment, had not started to produce fruits. The effect of sprays (0, 1, 2, or 3 sprays) with the aqueous solution of the growth retardant Sadh at 2 ‰, on shoot growth, flowering and nut production of the trees was studied. The sprays were applied in the spring of 1970 on the trees of the cvs TRUOITO and DIATOMOU VIOTIAS, and, in 1971, only the second cultivar?

In the year of sprays, SADH reduced, in TRUOITO the length of annual shoots, and the size of leaves. It, also, promoted the differentiation of flower buds so that in the next year an increased flowering and nut production were observed.

The size of nuts was not affected. The increase of nut production was financially important. In the year of sprays, SADH suppressed apical dominance in annual shoots causing the development of lateral shoots, and increased drought resistance of the trees. The magnitude of all these effects was positively correlated with the number of sprays.

There was a different response of the cv. DISTOMOU VIOTIAS, to SADH. Shoot length was decreased only after the trees were sprayed with the growth retardant for two consecutive years, flowering was not affected, and nut production was decreased in the treatment of the three sprays.