

Approaches on Physical Thinning of Fruitlets to Improve Yield and Quality of Kiwifruit cv. Allison

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Abstract—Crop load is one of the major factors influencing the fruit size and weight in kiwifruit, thus hand thinning is required to obtain better size and quality fruits. Keeping in view the above points, the present investigation was undertaken at mid hill condition of Arunachal Pradesh to study the effect of hand thinning of fruitlets on fruit size, yield and quality of kiwifruits cv. Allison. Seven year old Kiwifruit vines were subjected to hand thinning at different severities viz. retaining 2 fruitlets, 4 fruitlets, 6 fruitlets per fruiting shoots, no thinning following proper canopy management practices and finally no thinning without following canopy management practices (control). The study reveals that hand thinning of fruitlets was found effective in enhancing the fruit size and weight which significantly improved with increasing severity of hand thinning. Among the different hand thinning treatments, hand thinning to 2 fruitlets per fruiting shoots recorded the maximum fruit size of length (7.14 cm), breadth (5.31 cm) and fruit weight (83.44 g) meanwhile the minimum fruit size and weight were recorded in control i.e. unthinned vines without following canopy management practices. However, the total fruit yield and number of fruits decreased with an increase in the intensity of hand thinning. Similarly, the production of 'A' grade fruits increased and 'B' and 'C' grade fruits decreased as the intensity of hand thinning were increased. Although, the highest total yield (29.80 kg/vine) was exhibited in control whereas the yield of grade 'A' fruit was least (10.26 kg/vine) resulting in the lowest net profit. Thinning to retain 6 fruitlets per fruiting shoots resulted in optimum thinning and maximum production of 'A' grade fruits (23.10 kg/vine) of better quality with highest net profit over other treatments.