

FEASIBILITY OF DRIP IRRIGATION IN MANGO DURING THE LEAN PERIOD OF WATER AVAILABILITY IN WESTERN INDIA

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Abstract: A field experiment was conducted for eight years (2002-2003 to 2009-2010) to compare the performance of drip and surface irrigation methods at different levels during lean period of water availability (*rabi* and summer season) in mango orchard cv. Alphonso. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with four treatments consisting of two drip levels (0.2 and 0.4 PEF), the recommended practice (three surface irrigations starting from pea size of fruits) and a control with no irrigation. The results indicated that mango trees should be drip irrigated at 0.2 PEF in the areas facing water scarcity to save 30% of the irrigation water with ensued higher yields. The system should be operated at 1.2 kg /cm² pressure on alternate day for 40 minutes and 60 minutes during winter and summer months, respectively.

Keywords: Mango, Experiment, Irrigation, Water

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