

Original Research Article

Effect of different Levels of Pruning on Fruit Attributes and Quality of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Sardar

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ABSTRACT

The field trial was conducted on a well-established guava orchard of ten years age, spaced at 6 x 6 m² at the Instructional-Cum-Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Latur during 2016-17, to study the effect of different levels of pruning on fruit attributes and quality of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Sardar. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with seven treatments viz., T₁ (Without pruning-Control), T₂ (5 cm pruning), T₃ (10 cm pruning), T₄ (15 cm pruning), T₅ (20 cm pruning), T₆ (25 cm pruning) and T₇ (30 cm pruning) with four replications after harvesting of previous season fruits. The pruning was done in 1st week of May, 2017. The 20 cm pruning level (T₅) resulted, the highest TSS (11.63 %), reducing sugar (8.12 %), total sugar (9.65 %) and Sugar: acid ratio (22.97 %). Hence, it can be concluded that, the 20 cm pruning level were beneficial for enhancing quality of guava cv. Sardar as compared to other treatments under Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

Keywords

Pruning, Fruit attributes, Quality, Guava

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is “Poor man’s fruit” and “Apple of tropics”. It is a popular fruit tree of tropical and subtropical climate and is native to Tropical America stretching from Mexico to Peru. It belongs to family Myrtaceae. The guava is classified under genus *Psidium* that contains 150 species but only *Psidium guajava* is exploited commercially.

The common guava is diploid (2n=22), but natural and artificial triploids (2n=33) and anuploid exists (Menzel, 1985). Triploids generally produce seedless fruit (Jaiswal and Amin, 1992). However most of them are shy

bearer. Guava trees are hardy, prolific bearer, long lived drought tolerant and need comparatively less attention which makes its cultivation more remunerative.

Guava fruit is also good source of minerals like phosphorous 22.50-40.00 mg, calcium 10.00-30.00 mg and iron 0.60-1.39 mg. It is also good source of pectin 0.50-1.80 % (Adsule and Kadam, 1995).

The total area under cultivation of guava in India is 2,59,000 ha and production is 4,11,9000 MT (Anonymous, 2017).

Beneficial effects of pruning on yield and fruit quality of guava have been reported by

various workers (Jadhav *et al.*, 1998, Mishra and Pathak, 1998, Dhaliwal *et al.*, 2000, Singh and Singh, 2001, Jadhav *et al.*, 2002, Dhaliwal and Kaur, 2003, Dhaliwal and Singh, 2004). Properly pruned guava trees produce quality fruits.

Materials and Methods

An experiment on guava cv. Sardar was conducted at the Instructional-Cum-Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Latur during 2016-17. The 10 years old trees grown at 6 x 6 m² spacing were used for the experiment.

The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with seven treatments *viz.*, T₁ (Without pruning-Control), T₂ (5 cm pruning), T₃(10 cm pruning), T₄ (15 cm pruning), T₅(20 cm pruning), T₆(25 cm pruning) and T₇ (30 cm pruning)with four replications after harvesting of previous season fruits.

The pruning was done in 1st week of May, 2017.The statistical analysis of the data in respect of fruit attributes and quality was done according to the standard procedure given by Panse and Sukhatme (1984).

Results and Discussion

Effect of pruning on fruit attributes of guava

It is revealed from the data (Table 1), the highest volume of fruit (281.66 ml)observed in treatment T₇.Minimumnumber of seeds per fruit(263.93) and weight of seeds per fruit (3.35 g) observed in treatment T₁as compared to other treatments. This might be due to the pruning may increases absorption of water, mobilization of minerals in pruned area. The pruning leads to renewal of potential fruit bud and retention of more juvenile wood. Pruning encourages substantial new growth. There may be proper balance in vegetative growth and productive growth. These findings are in accordance with the results obtained by Rather (2006) in Red Delicious apple.

Effect of pruning on quality of guava

It is revealed from the data (Table 2), significantly the highest TSS (11.63 %), reducing sugar (8.12 %), total sugar (9.65 %) and Sugar: acid ratio (22.97 %) observed in treatment T₅.The lowestacidity (0.41 %)observed in treatment T₆ and the highestNon-reducing sugars (0.73 %)observed in treatment T₄.

Table.1 Effect of pruning on fruit attributes of guava.

Treatments	Volume of fruit(ml)	Number of seeds per fruit	Weight of seeds per fruit (g)
T ₁	191.13	263.93	3.35
T ₂	203.79	276.05	3.45
T ₃	222.21	280.70	3.54
T ₄	251.49	286.90	3.59
T ₅	262.28	291.07	3.62
T ₆	279.11	298.55	3.92
T ₇	281.66	306.68	4.01
S.E.±	9.90	6.52	0.158
C.D at 5%	29.44	19.39	NS

Table.2 Effect of pruning on quality of guava.

Treatments	TSS (%)	Acidity (%)	Reducing sugars (%)	Non-reducing sugars (%)	Total sugars (%)	Sugar: acid ratio
T ₁	9.23	0.44	5.44	1.27	6.71	15.25
T ₂	9.43	0.45	5.74	1.37	7.11	15.80
T ₃	9.53	0.43	6.51	1.47	7.98	18.55
T ₄	11.24	0.42	7.35	1.73	9.08	21.61
T ₅	11.63	0.42	8.12	1.53	9.65	22.97
T ₆	10.45	0.41	7.48	1.63	9.11	22.21
T ₇	9.72	0.43	6.88	1.60	8.48	19.72
S.E.±	0.471	0.007	0.276	0.257	0.407	0.820
C.D at 5%	1.400	NS	0.821	NS	1.209	2.436

This may be due to Pruning improve physiology of leaves, thereby causing better translocation of vital components in fruit and assimilation of photosynthesis by developing fruit. Similarly it may increase activity of enzymes such as amylose which hydrolyze complex polysaccharides into simple sugars which accelerates the translocation of metabolites towards developing fruits. These results are supported by Rather (2006) in Red Delicious apple, Lakhpati *et al.*, (2013) in guava and Kumar *et al.*, (2014) in ber.

The pruning of guava trees in the first week of May with 20 cm pruning level were found beneficial for fruit attributes and quality of guava cv. Sardar under Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

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