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1 **Creasing in Sweet Orange (*Citrus sinensis* L. Osbeck): The Role of**
2 **Aminoethoxyvinylglycine**

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10 20

11 **Abstract**

12 Creasing is known as albedo breakdown and a physiological disorder in sweet oranges.
13 In the current study, aminoethoxyvinylglycine (AVG) a reversible ethylene inhibitor with
14 different concentration (0, 20, 40 and 60 mg L⁻¹) was sprayed at various fruit developmental
15 stages such as fruit set (FS), golf ball (GB) and color break (CB) stage to alleviate creasing as
16 well as to promote textural properties of sweet orange fruit in cv. 'Washington Navel (W.
17 Navel) and Lane Late (L. Late) was investigated. At ripening 35-fruit/replication were
18 collected randomly from tree to check the albedo breakdown and fruit rind characteristics.
19 Creasing was substantially alleviated with the spray application of AVG and fruit quality was
20 significantly improved. The creasing was significantly reduced when AVG (60 mg L⁻¹) was
21 sprayed at GB (27.86% and 24.29%) stage with respect to control (52.14 and 51.53%) in W. Navel
22 during both years, respectively. The spray application at FS stage (22.86%) was more active than
23 the control (51.43%) in cv. L. Late sweet orange during second harvest season. In conclusion, all
24 the applications of AVG substantially alleviate the creasing (%), improve the textural
25 properties, fruit weight, diameter and rind thickness of W. Navel and L. Late oranges.

26 **Keywords:** Sweet orange; creasing; ethylene inhibitor; AVG; fruit quality

27
28 **Introduction**

29 Sweet orange belongs to genus citrus which is an important genus for flowering plants
30 and belongs to family Rutaceae. It is originated from subtropical as well as tropical regions in
31 the world (Ismail and Zhang, 2004) and many species thought to be native of China. However,
32 the genus citrus includes sweet orange, mandarins. Lime lemon and grape fruit. According to
33 area and production, citrus is 2nd most important horticultural crop after grapes in the whole
34 world. Sweet orange is leading citrus group which grown all over the world (FAOSTAT, 2013).

35 Quality is a primary concern to citrus producers and processor as well as consumers and is
36 determined by the fruit firmness, smoothness, gloss and colour. However, the sweet orange
37 fruit attractive due to its fruit rind. The citrus fruit peel is composed of white tissues known as
38 albedo and orange tissues which are known as flavedo. Albedo tissues of fruit rind prone to
39 rupture which is known as creasing in sweet oranges (Monselise *et al.*, 1976). Creasing affects
40 different cultivars of citrus like W. Navel, Valencia, Navelina and Nova mandarins (Ali *et al.*,
41 2000; Gambetta *et al.*, 2000; Greenberg *et al.*, 2006; Hussain, 2014; Saleem *et al.*, 2014;
42 Hussain and Singh, 2015 a & b). However, creasing was first time reported by Le-Roux and
43 Crous, (1938) in South Africa during 1938. Now, albedo breakdown is prime issue in orange
44 producing countries in the world such as South Africa, USA, China, Spain and Uruguay as well
45 as in Australia (Bower, 2004; Greenberg *et al.*, 2006; Hussain, 2014; Hussain and Singh, 2015
46 a & b). According to an estimate more than 50 % Australian sweet orange loss due to creasing
47 (Treeby *et al.*, 1995; Bower, 2004; Treeby *et al.*, 2007). It is very difficult to detect creasing at
48 early stage of fruit development. However, it is easily detectable at maturity and the color break
49 stage of fruit developmental (Monselise *et al.*, 1976). There are so many factors are involved
50 in development of creasing such as crop fruit size, rind thickness, deficiency of elements, fruit
51 position, load and irrigation (Treeby *et al.*, 2007; Bower, 2004). Although, it has been
52 previously described that ethylene is involved for creasing in oranges, but the existing
53 information is unconvincing.

54 It is well known that citrus fruit is in non-climacteric nature, which produce very limited
55 amount of endogenous ethylene and respiration process is also very slow. Ethylene is a gaseous
56 plant hormone which is used as ripening agent and changing fruit colour in citrus (Bleecker,
57 2000; Ladaniya, 2007). Rath and Prentice (2004) and Ladaniya (2007) stated that ethylene also
58 plays important role in softening of fruits and vegetables due to decaying cell membranes. The
59 application of ethephone or ethereal as ethylene source significantly improved the ripening,
60 respiration and color changes in sweet oranges (Augustí *et al.*, 2002; Burg, 2004; Ladaniya,
61 2007). However, it is reported previously that ethylene played key role in creasing of oranges
62 (Monselise *et al.*, 1976; Pham, 2009; Hussain, 2014). Currently, Hussain and Singh (2015b)
63 claimed higher ethylene production in the creased fruit with respect to normal ones in oranges.
64 It has been reported that ethylene biosynthesis can be inhibited by the use of CoSO_4 and 1-
65 Methylcyclopropene (1-MCP) as well as polyamines (PAs). AVG is an inhibitor of ethylene
66 biosynthesis which inhibit the activities of 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid (ACC) in
67 plant tissues (Rath *et al.*, 2006). AVG is commonly available in the market in the name of
68 'ReTain™' which is used for pre-harvest for improving physiological disorders such as fruit

69 drop in different fruit plants especially temperate fruits (Rath *et al.*, 2006). Similarly, Al-
70 Husseini (2012) also conducted an experiment of AVG (20-60 mg L⁻¹) to determine drops
71 and quality oranges. In the current research work, the role of AVG on creasing (%), rind
72 textural characteristics, weight, diameter and rind thickness at different fruit developmental
73 stages like FS, GB and CB in orange cultivars (W. Navel and L. Late) was evaluated.

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1

75 **Materials and Methods**

76 **Experimental Details and Treatments**

77 **Experimental Details:** The current study was done on commercial citrus grove which is
78 located in Gingin (latitude 21° 31' S, longitude 115° 15' E) Western Australia. 25-year old
79 uniform oranges trees of W. Navel and L. Late were used in both experiments. Trifoliolate orange
80 is common stock which is used for grafting sweet oranges in Australia.

81 **Experiment No. 1.**

82 **of AVG sprayed at different fruit developmental stages in sweet orange cv. W. Navel**

83 In the 1st experiment, an aqueous solution containing different concentrations of AVG, applied
84 at the FS, GB and at the CB stage on creasing incidence, textural properties of rind, weight,
85 diameter and rind thickness was studied in sweet orange cv. W. Navel.

86 **Experiment No. 2. Evaluating Different Concentrations of Aminoethoxyvinylglycine** 87 **(AVG) applied at different fruit developmental stages in Sweet Orange cv. L. Late**

88 The 2nd experiment was performed on late oranges by using the same spray treatments of AVG at
89 same fruit developmental stages and same parameters were recorded as described in experiment no. 1.

90 **Treatments and Experimental Design:** Different concentration of AVG (20, 40 and 60 mg
91 L⁻¹) was sprayed at FS (Fruit size: 15±5 mm), GB (Fruit size 40±5 mm) and CB stage (Fruit
92 size: 80±5 mm) of W. Navel and L. Late by spraying with hand sprayer (The Selecta Trolley Pak
93 Mk II, Acacia Ridge, Australia). Both experiments were conducted under randomised complete
94 block design (RCBD) with two factors (treatments and stages of AVG application).

95 **Data Collection:** The experiment was repeated in two consecutive years {2011 (a) and 2012
96 (b)}. The data were not pooled due to difference in mean squares during both seasons were
97 heterogeneous. The detail of all the parameters studied in the current study is given as:

98 **Creasing (%):** At commercial maturity, 35-fruit harvested per replication from both cultivars
99 to determine the incidence of creasing (%). The creasing (%) was observed by the
100 recommendation of Treeby *et al.*, (1995) and Pham, (2009) based on the effected fruit. The
101 following formula was used to calculate the creasing (%).

102
$$\text{Creasing (\%)} = \frac{(\text{Total number of creased fruit}) \times 100}{\text{Total number of fruit assessed}}$$

103 **Textural properties:**

104 Textural properties were recorded by using a textural analyzer (TA Plus, AMETEK Lloyd
105 instruments Ltd., Hampshire, UK). The collected data were subject to processes by using
106 Nexygen® 4.6 software and details are as:

107 **Compression force (N):**

108 The compression force measured with the help of textural analyzer. 10-fruit per replication
109 selected with 75 mm height and test was established at strain of 50% of fruit length with 200
110 mm/minutes speed.

111 **Rind hardness test (N):**

112 Different 10-fruit per replication were selected for rind hardness. The fruit rind was peeled
113 (2.5 cm wide × 0.6 cm thick) by slicer (Zylyss slice 2 folding Mandolin Slicer, Swiss). A 4 mm
114 diameter cylinder probe was used to check rind hardness, attached to the load cell and all the
115 samples were placed onto the flat plate. Hardness was the first penetration of probe at speed of
116 100 mm/minutes and expressed as force (N).

117 **Rind tensile strength test (N):**

118 To measure the tensile strength, rind of orange carefully removed at a size of (2.5 x 5 cm area
119 with 6 mm thickness). The tensile force was measured at the maximum load and limit points
120 where the rind deflection occurred.

121 **Measurement of fruit weight, diameter and rind thickness:**

122 Ten fruit were selected from randomly harvested fruit to measure weight on digital balance
123 (GF-10K, A&D Limited, Tokyo, Japan) and mean fruit weight was calculated by dividing ten
124 on total fruit weight and expressed in gram (g). Similarly, Fruit diameter and rind thickness of
125 selected were determined by using digital Vernier calliper from each treatment and expressed
126 in mm.

127

128 **Results**

129 **Creasing (%):** Creasing (%) significantly alleviated by the exogenous application of AVG at
130 FS, GB and CB stage in sweet oranges cv. W. Navel and L. Late in harvest season 1 and 2 (Fig.
131 1). The results showed that exogenous applications of AVG reduced creasing (%) regardless of
132 stage of application in W. Navel in both consecutive seasons. However, same trend was also
133 noted in L. Late sweet orange in harvest season 2. The spray application of AVG have resulted
134 significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduction in creasing (%) than the control in cv. Lane Late during

135 harvest season 2. The GB stage (39.46% and 34.11%) was more effective in reducing creasing
136 with respect to its application at FS and CB in cv. Navel during harvest season 1 and 2.
137 However, the treatment (60 mg L⁻¹) of AVG resulted significant reduction in creasing (27.86
138 % and 24.29 %) related to the control (52.14 and 51.53 %) in W. Navel during harvest season
139 1 and 2. The non-significant (p < 0.05) interaction was observed in cv Washington Navel and
140 L. Late sweet oranges during both harvest season.

141 **Textural properties of oranges fruit rind**

142 **Fruit compression force:** All the application of AVG significantly improved the firmness
143 force irrespective of its application at FS, GB and CB stage in harvest season 1 and harvest
144 season 2 (Fig. 2 and 3). Similarly, the spray application 40-60 mg L⁻¹ of AVG showed higher
145 compression force than control and (20 mg L⁻¹) AVG in W. Navel and L. Late at harvest season
146 1. However, in harvest season 2, all the spray application significantly improved the fruit
147 compression force compared with the control in both cultivars. Similarly, all spray applications
148 of AVG was effective when sprayed at FS, GB and CB stage. However, the CB stage of
149 application was resulted higher fruit compression force (310.20 N) with respect to FS (262.40
150 N) and GB stage (269.20 N) in W. Navel sweet orange in harvest season 1. In cv. W. Navel
151 non-significant effect was observed during harvest season 2. However, non-significant effect
152 was observed in W. Navel sweet orange in harvest season 2. The non-significant (p < 0.05)
153 interaction for compression force was observed in both cultivars during both harvest seasons.

154 **Rind hardness:** The results showed that all the treatments of AVG improved the rind hardness
155 force (N) when spray was applied at the FS, GB and CB stage of W. Navel and L. Late sweet
156 oranges during both harvest seasons (Fig. 2 and 3). All the spray treatments of AVG resulted
157 significantly mean hardness with respect to control in L. Late in harvest season 1 only. Similar
158 findings were observed at treatment 60 mg L⁻¹ of AVG than the control and 20-40 mgL⁻¹ AVG
159 in W. Navel during harvest season 1. However, all the treatments of AVG (40-60 mg L⁻¹)
160 resulted substantially improve the hardness with respect to the control and AVG (20 mgL⁻¹) in
161 both cultivars of sweet orange.

162 **Rind tensile strength:** It is significantly improved with spray of AVG irrespective of its
163 application at different developmental stages of fruit in sweet orange cv. W. Navel and L. Late
164 during harvest season 1 and harvest season 2 (Fig. 2 and 3). The results showed that AVG (20-
165 60 mg L⁻¹) resulted significantly improvement on rind tensile force than the control sweet
166 orange L. Late in harvest season 1. Similar findings were observed in harvest season 2 in both
167 cultivars. When all the treatments were compared, the FS stage (71.42 N) was more effective
168 stage of AVG application followed by its application at the GB (57.85 N) and CB stage (59.97

169 N) in sweet orange L. Late in harvest season 1. However, stages of spray application did not
170 effect on rind tensile strength W. Navel sweet orange. In general, AVG (60 mg L⁻¹) resulted
171 higher rind tensile force (51.21 N) compared to all other treatments and control (39.86 N) in
172 cv. W. Navel during harvest season 1.

173 **Fruit weight:** Fruit weight was significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased with application of AVG at
174 FS, GB and CB stage in the both cultivars during both seasons (Table 1). When we compared
175 the effect of AVG treatments related to its stage of application, then results showed that mean
176 fruit weight increase with increased in concentration in both cultivars in both seasons.
177 However, the treatment AVG (60 mgL⁻¹) resulted significantly increased in fruit weight
178 (279.80 and 253.61 g) regarding control (263.61 and 232.20 g) in W. Navel in both seasons.
179 Similar findings were observed in cv. L. Late. Similarly, when we compared the stage of
180 application, the FS increased fruit weigh than GB and CB stage irrespective of cultivars and
181 seasons. The interaction between treatments and different stages of application was also found
182 to be non-significant ($p < 0.05$) for fruit weight in both cultivars during both seasons.

183 **Fruit diameter:** Fruit diameter increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) with the increased in
184 concentrations of AVG at all stages of its application in both cultivars during both seasons
185 (Table 2). When we compared the effect of AVG treatments related to its stage of application,
186 then results showed that mean fruit diameter increases with increased in AVG concentration in
187 both cultivars in both seasons. However, the treatment AVG (60 mg L⁻¹) resulted significantly
188 increased in diameter (84.69 and 81.98 mm) and (80.93 and 83.02 mm) regarding control
189 (77.61 and 73.46 mm) and (75.76 and 78.67 mm) in W. Navel and L. Late, respectively in both
190 seasons. Similarly, when we compared the stage of application, the GB stage was more
191 effective stage of AVG application regarding fruit diameter (82.71 mm) followed by CB (81.37
192 mm) and FS (81.01 mm) in W. Navel in both seasons. However, CB (82.93 mm) stage was
193 more effective than FS (82.59 mm) and GB (79.38 mm) in L. Late Sweet orange.

194 **Rind thickness:** The AVG significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased the rind thickness irrespective of
195 its application at FS, GB and CB stage in the both cultivars during both seasons (Table 3).
196 When the effect of AVG treatments related to its stage of application was compared, the results
197 showed that mean rind thickness increase with increased in concentration in both cultivars
198 during both seasons. However, the treatment AVG (60 mg L⁻¹) resulted significantly increased
199 in rind thickness (5.18 and 5.43 mm) and (4.77 and 5.18 mm) regarding control (4.69 and 4.92
200 mm) and 4.31 and 4.69 mm) in W. Navel and L. Late in both seasons. Similarly, comparing
201 the stage of application, the CB stage resulted higher rind thickness (5.10 and 5.28 mm)
202 followed by GB (4.95 and 4.92 mm) and CB (3.61 and 4.87 mm) stage in cv. L. Late in both

203 seasons. In W. Navel, CB (5.28 mm) stage was more effective stage AVG application followed
204 by GB (4.92 mm) and FS (4.87 mm) in harvest season 1 only. In harvest season 2, GB (5.35
205 mm) stage was more effective than CB (5.15 mm) and FS (5.06 mm) stage in W. Navel the
206 mean fruit rind thickness significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher, when AVG was sprayed at the GB
207 (5.35 mm) with respect to the CB (5.15 mm) and FS stage (5.06 mm) in W. Navel during
208 harvest season 2.

209 Discussion

210
211 Creasing (%) significantly alleviated by the exogenous application of irreversible ethylene
212 inhibitor AVG at FS, GB and CB stage in sweet oranges W. Navel and L. Late in harvest season
213 1 and 2 (Figure 1). In conclusion, among all the treatments, AVG (60 mg L^{-1}) was more
214 effective than all other treatments and control in both cultivars and both harvest seasons.
215 Similarly, the GB stage (27.86 and 24.29 %) was more suitable stage for AVG application with
216 respect to control (52.14 and 51.53 %) in sweet orange W. Navel harvest season 1 and harvest
217 season 2 respectively. However, in cv. L. Late, the CB (22.86%) stage was more effective
218 followed by FS (29.29%) as compared to control (51.43 and 59.29 %) during harvest season 1
219 and harvest season 2 (Fig. 1). It has been reported previously that different factors such as
220 climate, crop load, fruit position, rind thickness, rootstocks and endogenous production of
221 ethylene are responsible for creasing in oranges (Pham, 2009). It has been previously reported
222 that higher level of endogenous ethylene involved in creasing of Valencia and W. Navel sweet
223 orange (Monselise *et al.*, 1976; Pham, 2009), due to higher activity of ethylene biosynthesis
224 enzymes (Hyodo and Nishino, 1981). Similarly, Hussain (2014) and Hussain and Singh (2015
225 b) also reported higher level of ethylene in the effected fruit of Navelina, W. Navel, L. Late
226 and Valencia Late sweet oranges. AVG is an inhibitor of ethylene, which inhibits ethylene
227 production in plant tissues by preventing the synthesis of ACC enzymes (Ladaniya, 2007).
228 Similarly, another ethylene inhibitor putrescine significant reduces creasing in oranges which
229 also supports the envelopment of ethylene in creasing (Hussain, 2014; Hussain and Singh,
230 2015a). Similar findings were observed by Saleem *et al.* (2014) and Hussain (2014) in the
231 creased fruit of oranges. Possibly, the reduction in creasing may be due to reduction in the
232 activities of cell wall degrading enzymes by the inhibition of endogenous ethylene with the
233 exogenous application of AVG. Similarly, Li *et al.* (2009), Hussain (2014) and Saleem *et al.*
234 (2014) claimed higher activities ACC enzymes in creased fruit of oranges.
235 The treatments 20-60 mg L^{-1} of AVG significantly enhanced the textural/rheological properties
236 of fruit rind compared to the control at all stages of spray application in both cultivars during

237 both harvest seasons (Fig. 2 A-F and 3 A-F). The AVG is an irreversible endogenous ethylene
238 inhibitor which inhibits ethylene and retained the fruit firmness, rind hardness and rind tensile
239 strength force due to reducing the activity of S-adenos-ylmethionine decarboxylase (SAMDC)
240 (Bregoli *et al.*, 2002).

241 All the treatments of AVG significantly increased the weight, diameter and rind thickness
242 irrespective of stages of spray application in W. Navel and L. Late (Table 1-3). It also has been
243 reported that AVG are used to inhibit free ethylene production and altered the activities of S-
244 adenos-ylmethionine decarboxylase (SAMDC) and improved the fruit weight, diameter,
245 growth and SSC (Byers *et al.*, 2005; Greene, 2005). Similar findings were observed in various
246 horticultural fruits crops like tomatoes (Jeong *et al.*, 2002), peaches (Kim *et al.*, 2004; Rath *et*
247 *al.*, 2004), nectarine (Rath and Prentice, 2004), apples (Greene, 2005) and oranges (Al-
248 Husseini, 2012).

249 **Conclusion**

252 It is concluded from the current study that the reduction in creasing of sweet orange fruit with
253 the exogenous application of AVG attributed due to the reduction in the endogenous ethylene
254 production by inhibiting the synthesis of ACC synthase enzymes. Similarly, the AVG retained
255 the fruit firmness, rind hardness and rind tensile strength force due to reducing the activity of
256 S-adenos-methionine decarboxylase (SAMDC) by inhibition of endogenous ethylene which
257 indicates the role of AVG in the creasing in sweet oranges.

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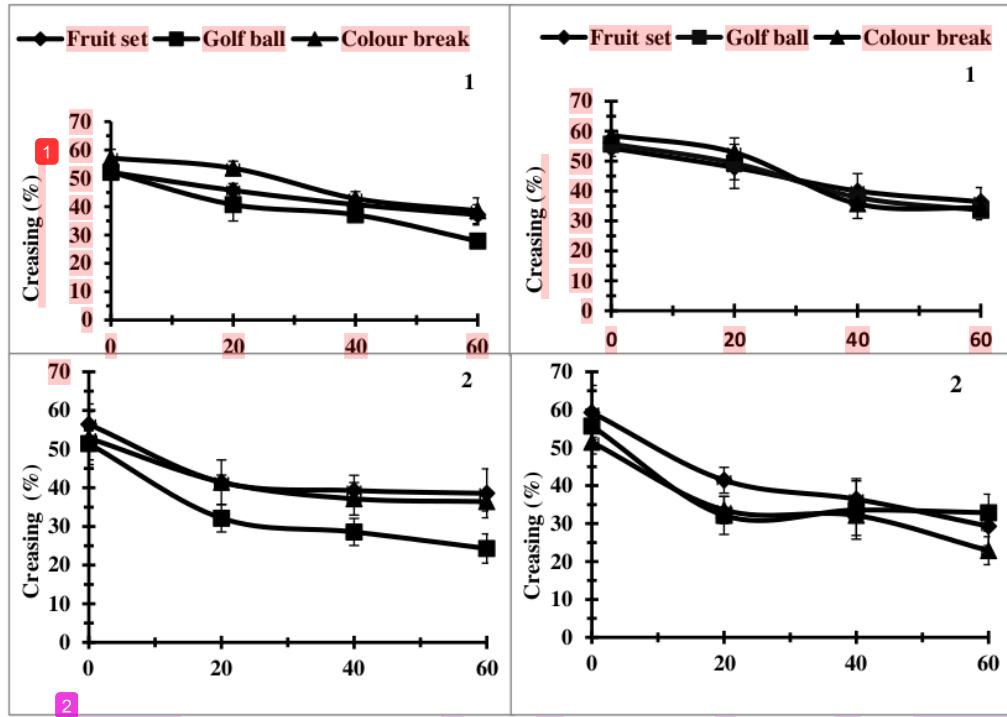
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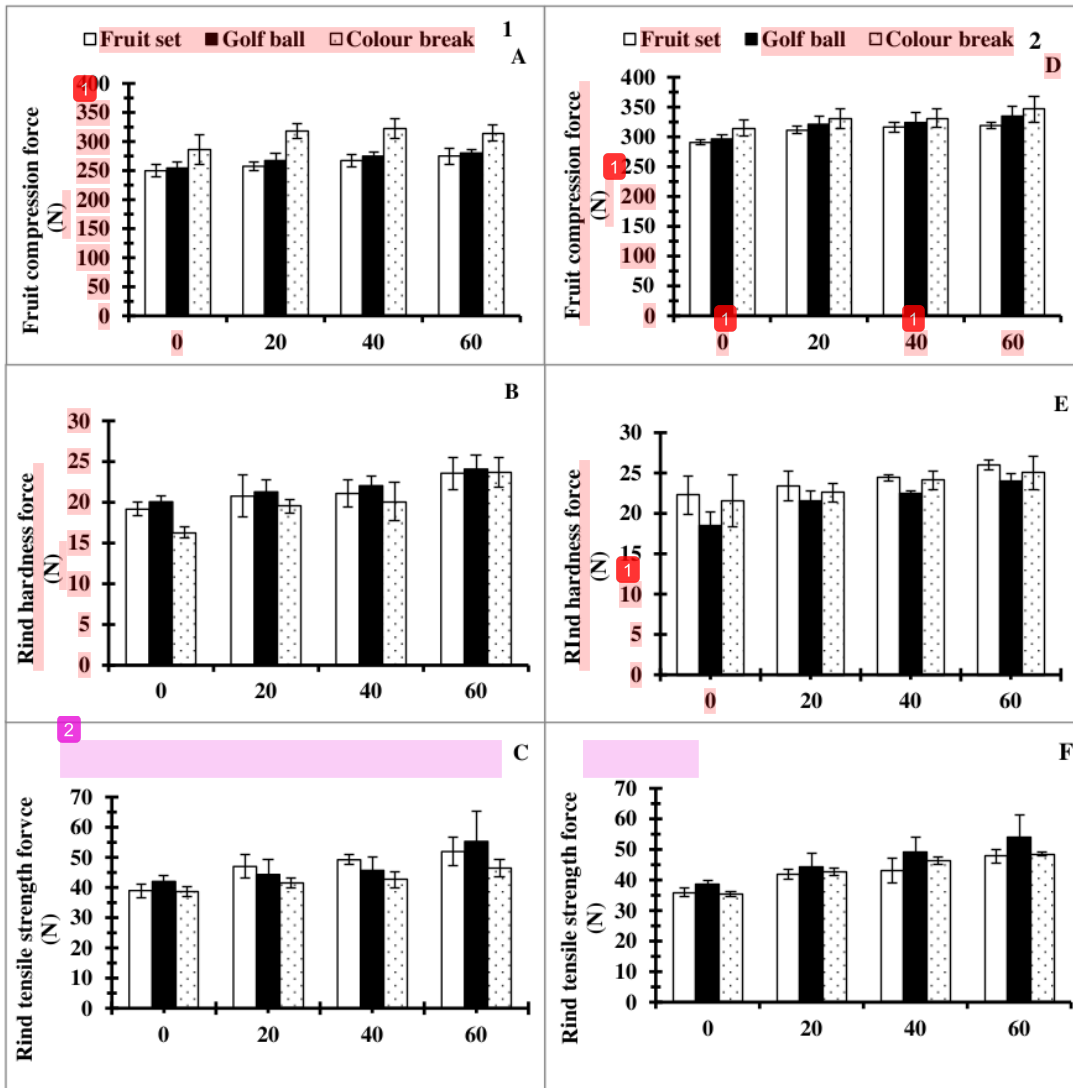


340 Fig.1: Effect of different concentration of AVG on creasing (%) in oranges cv. W. Navel and

341 L. Late.

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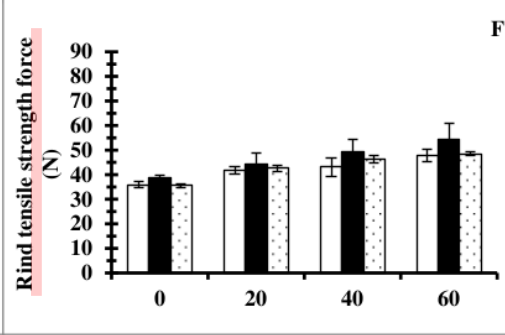
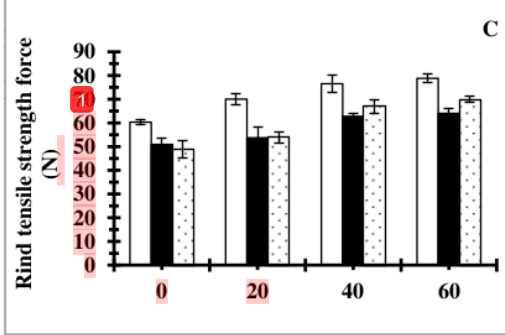
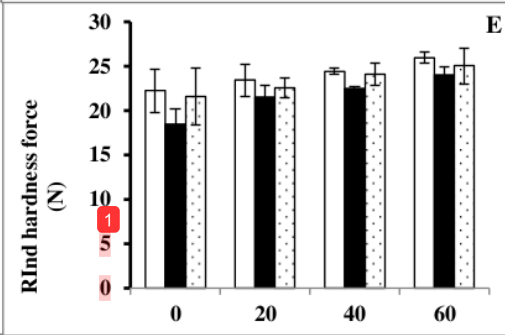
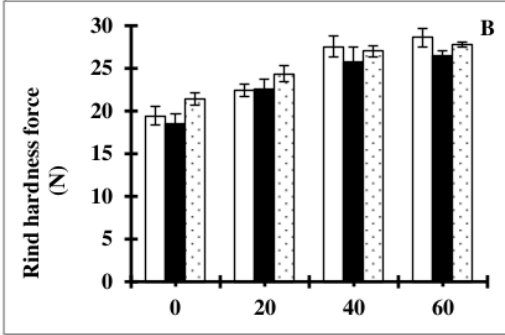
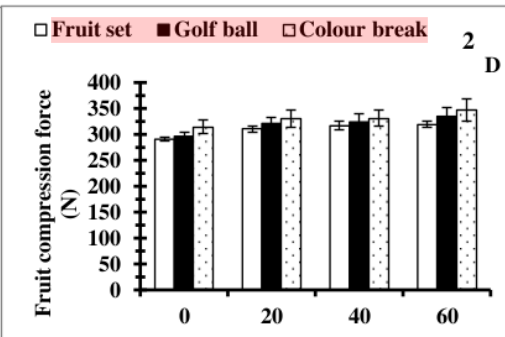
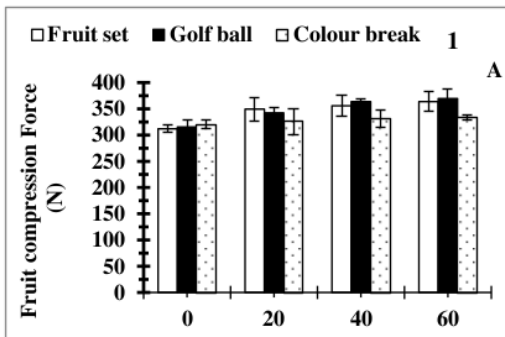


Table no. 1: Impact of AVG² on fruit weight of sweet orange cv. W. Navel and L. Late.

Fruit weight (g)								
W. Navel								
	ES ¹²		GB		CB ¹⁷		Mean (Treat)	
Treatments	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harve st season n 1	harvest season 2
Control	270.20 ab	234.80 ab	257.20 b	242.5ab	263.20 ab	219.20 b	263.6 1b	232.20b
AVG.20mgL ⁻¹	271.80 ab	237.5a b	263.21 ab	244.20 ab	273.00 ab	234.00 ab	269.3 1ab	238.61a b
AVG.40mgL ⁻¹	274.51 ab	238.2a b	272.50 ab	261.70 a	278.30 ab	245.81 ab	275.1 0a	248.60a b
AVG.60mgL ⁻¹	279.20 a	246.2a b	281.00 a	265.50 a	279.00 ab	249.00 ab	279.8 0a	253.61a
Mean (stage)	273.90 a	239.2a b	268.51 a	253.50a	273.41 a	237.00 ² b		
LSD (p < 0.05)								
Treatments			10.8	16.95				
Stage			ns	14.68				
Treatments × stages			ns	ns				
L. Late								
	ES ¹²		GB		CB ¹²		Mean (Treat)	
Treatments	harvest season 1	harves t season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harves t season 1	harvest season 2
Control	265.2a b	270.20 ab	263.20 b	247.21b	263.80 b	268.2a b	264.10 b	261.90 b
AVG.20mgL ⁻¹	278.20 ab	281.80 a	272.0ab	270.80a b	269.51 ab	283.00 a	273.20 b	278.51 a

AVG.40mgL ⁻¹	292.00 ab	287.01 a	272.2ab	272.50a	273.20 ab	283.30 a	279.21 ab	280.90 a
AVG.60mgL ⁻¹	295.50 ab	294.20 a	298.2a	276.00a	280.49 ab	281.50 a	291.40 a	283.90 a
Mean (stage)	282.80 a	283.31 a	276.41a	266.61b	271.80 a	279.00 ² a		
LSD (p < 0.05)								
Treatments			16.92	12.92				
Stages			ns	22.37				
Treatments × stages			ns ¹	ns				

382 n = 4 replications (10 fruit per replication), ns = not-significant; treat = Treatments.

383

384 **Table no. 2: Impact of AVG on fruit diameter of sweet orange cv. W. Navel and L. Late**

Fruit diameter (mm)								
W. Navel								
	FS		GB		CB		Mean (Treat)	
Treatments	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2
Control	79.92 bcd	67.69 c	75.50 d	75.50 b	77.42 cd	77.18 ab	77.61 b	73.46 b
AVG.20mgL ⁻¹	79.92 bcd	81.8 ab	82.47 abcd	79.56 ab	80.75 abcd	78.56 ab	81.05 ab	79.97 a
AVG.40mgL ⁻¹	81.40 abcd	82.13a	85.55 ab	80.91 ab	83.36 abc	79.66 ab	83.44 a	80.90 a
AVG.60mgL ⁻¹	82.79 abc	83.39 a	87.30 a	82.23 a	83.97 abc	80.91 ab ²	84.69 a	81.98 a
Mean (stage)	81.01 a	78.76 a	82.71 a	79.55 a	81.37 a	78.92 a		
LSD (p < 0.05)								
Treatments			3.59	1.59				
Stage			ns	ns				
Treatments × stages			ns	2.75				

Control	4.57 cd	4.68 c	4.47 d	5.08 abc	5.04 abc	4.98 bc	4.69 b	4.92 b
AVG.20mgL ⁻¹	4.89 bcd	5.09 abc	5.03 abc	5.30 ab	5.23 ab	5.04 abc	5.05 a	5.14 ab
AVG.40mgL ⁻¹	4.97 bc	5.15 abc	5.08 ab	5.44 ab	5.47 a	5.16 abc	5.17 a	5.25 a
AVG.60mgL ⁻¹	5.05 abc	5.32 ²¹ ab	5.10 ab	5.56 a	5.38 ab	5.40 ab	5.18 ² a	5.43 a
Mean (stage)	4.87 b	5.06 b	4.92b	5.35 a	5.28 a	5.15 ab		
LSD (p < 0.05)								
Treatments			0.25	0.28				
Stage			0.21	0.24				
Treatments × stages			Ns	ns				
L. Late								
	ES ¹²		GB		CB ¹⁷		Mean (Treat)	
Treatments	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harvest season 1	harvest season 2	harves t season 1	harve st season 2
Control	3.42 b	4.57cd	4.67 a	4.46 d	4.84 a	5.04 abc	4.31 b	4.69 b
AVG.20mgL ⁻¹	3.52 b	4.89 bcd	4.91 a	5.03 abc	5.13 a	5.23 ab	4.52 ab	5.05 a
AVG.40mgL ⁻¹	3.62b	4.96 bc	5.04 a	5.08 ab	5.21 a	5.47a	4.62 ab	5.17 a
AVG.60mgL ⁻¹	3.88b	5.05 ab	5.20 a	5.10 ab	5.22 a	5.38 ab	4.77 ² a	5.18 a
Mean (stage)	3.61 b	4.87 b	4.95 a	4.92 b	5.10 a	5.28 a		
LSD (p < 0.05)								
Treatments			0.34	0.21				
Stages			0.30	0.43				
Treatments × stages			ns	ns				

390 n = 4 replications (10 fruit per replication), ns = not-significant; treat = Treatment

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PAGE 9

PAGE 10

PAGE 11

PAGE 12

PAGE 13

PAGE 14

PAGE 15

PAGE 16

PAGE 17
