

Effect of gibberellic acid, Active dry yeast and bunch trimming treatments on physical and chemical characteristics of Williams banana fruit.

By: A. A. Rashedy

Super visors: H. T. Mehanna and A. A. El-Ezaby and

M.Sc. department of Pomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Egypt.
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A field experiment was conducted on Williams banana cultivar growing in sandy soil in a Private orchard at El-Behera Governorate through two successive seasons (2003 and 2004), to study the effect of GA₃, active dry yeast and bunch trimming treatments on yield and fruit quality of Williams banana fruit. The treatments included foliar application of GA₃ at 50, 100 and 200 ppm, active dry yeast at 0.1, 0.5 and 1% at bunch emergence and one month later. Soil application of active dry yeast at 0.1, 0.15 and 1% at bunch emergence stage or one month before harvest and bunch trimming treatments by removing of the male bud alone or with one or two terminal hands was carried out in the second season.

Results indicated that application of 100 ppm GA₃ at bunch emergence increased bunch weight by 14.5 and 7.5% in the first and second season, respectively. Soil application of active dry yeast at 0.1% one month before harvest and removing of the male bud with one terminal hand increased bunch weight by 6.7 and 13.9% in the second season, respectively. However, this treatments also increased fruit weight, length, diameter, and volume. While removing of two terminal hands decreased the bunch weight, but it gave the best fruit quality