



AENSI Journals

Journal of Applied Science and Agriculture

ISSN 1816-9112

Journal home page: www.aensiweb.com/JASA



The Influences of Proline on Fruit Qualitative Properties of *Actinidia deliciosa* cv. hayward

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 1 September 2014

Received in revised form 25 October 2014

Accepted 31 October 2014

Available online 5 November 2014

Keywords:

Actinidia deliciosa, Fruit, Hayward, Proline, Quality

ABSTRACT

The influences of foliar application of proline on fruit qualitative properties of kiwifruit grown at a vineyard in Chalous were examined. Dissolved proline was sprayed on the leaves of vines three times, before anthesis, after fruit set and fruit developing stage. The application doses of proline were 0, 0.1% and 0.2%. Each application consists of four replications and the experiment was conducted in complete randomized factorial design in order to measure fiber, total sugar, pH, soluble solid content, dry matter, protein, vitamin C and flesh firmness of fruit. The statistical data and the mentioned diagrams of comparative means showed that proline increased total sugar, soluble solid content, protein, vitamin C, fruit firmness and pH of fruit, but decreased the fiber and dry matter of fruit. Also, the dose of proline 0.1% decreased the pH of fruit.

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To Cite This Article: Mehran Mahmoudi, Saeed Samavat, Mostafa Mostafavi, Ahmad Khalighi and Ali Cherati., The Influences of Proline on Fruit Qualitative Properties of *Actinidia deliciosa* cv. hayward. *J. Appl. Sci. & Agric.*, 9(17): 9-12, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Many laboratory and glasshouse studies have shown that organic fertilizers increase the growth and development of fruits due to uptake of mineral nutrients (Alam, 1994). Some studies show that foliar and root application of commercial amino acids led to a better development of plants (Shamsul, 2012, Cerdán *et al.*, 2006). Generally, fruit quality is characterized by high amounts of total sugar, soluble solid content, protein, vitamin C and else which have positive effects on the palatability of fruit by consumers (Thakur and Chandel, 2004, Nishiyama *et al.*, 2008). Fruit qualitative properties are increased by adding amino acid fertilizers to plants, because of the excess uptake of potentially nutrients and decreasing negative effects of inhibited uptake of essential mineral nutrients (Oliviera *et al.*, 1998, Ahmad *et al.*, 2010). Briefly, adding proline increases the physiological activities of plants and positively affects the development of fruit and improving the fruit quality (Shehata *et al.*, 2011, Han *et al.*, 2004). Since amino acids may enhance uptake of some mineral nutrients and reduce the uptake of certain toxic elements, one might reason that application of Proline could improve and increase the fruit quality (El-Kosary *et al.*, 2011; Kishor *et al.*, 2005). However, there is a lack of research regarding Proline application and its effects on fruit quality of Kiwifruit. Therefore, the aim of this research was to study the influence of Proline on the fruit qualitative properties of Kiwifruit.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The soil used in this study was collected from 0–30 cm depth of the field located in Chalous and the vines were 10 years. The field experiment was conducted in a vineyard in complete randomized factorial design with three foliar application doses of proline (0, 0.1, and 0.2%) and each application consists of four replications. Each vine was irrigated with tap water during the experiment. The applied proline was prepared from Biochemics company (Netherlands). Proline was sprayed three times on the leaves of vines (before anthesis, after fruit set and during fruit developing stage). Finally, protein by Kjeldahl method (Bremner, 1965), total sugar by phenol method, pH by pH meter, soluble solid content by refractometer, dry matter by oven, vitamin C by 2,6-dichlorophenol-endophenol method, ash by electric kiln and flesh firmness by pressuremeter were obtained (A.O.A.C., 1990). The statistical analysis was performed using SAS, MSTATC statistical softwares, and mean values were grouped with Duncan multiple range test ($P < 0.05$).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3-1- Fruit protein:

According to the tables of comparative means, proline application increased the measurement of protein which the most amounts of protein by the treatment of proline 0.2% and the least amount of protein by control treatment obtained (table2). The application of proline increases the fruit protein by increasing nitrate absorption and result in high protein of fruits. These results corroborate findings of Yuan *et al.* (2009), Jin-xing *et al.* (2011) and Akingi *et al.* (2009).

3-2- Dry matter:

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application decreased the dry matter which the most amounts of dry matter by the treatment of control treatment and the least amount of dry matter by proline 0.2% obtained (table2). The application of proline decreases the fruit dry matter by changing insoluble compositions to soluble ones and result in lower dry matter of fruits. These results approve findings of Thakur and Chandel (2004), Ahmad *et al.* (2010) and Mogda and Ayman (2012).

3-3- Fruit fiber:

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application decreased the fruit fiber which the most amounts of fruit fiber by control treatment and the least amount of fiber by the treatment of proline 0.2% obtained (table2). The application of proline increases the metabolic activities, energy saving and cell permeability and result in more decomposition of fruit fiber. These results approve findings of Gaddalah (1999) and Shamsul (2012).

3-4- Total sugar:

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application increased the total sugar which the most amounts of sugar by the treatment of proline 0.1% and the least amount of total sugar by the control treatment obtained, and there is no difference between proline 0.2% and proline 0.1% (table2). The application of proline increases the decomposition of polysaccharides like starch and turn them out to the reduced sugar of fruits like glucose and fructose. These results corroborate findings of Han *et al.* (2004), Nishiyama *et al.*, (2008) and Cecilia *et al.* (2008).

3-5- Vitamine c:

According to the tables of comparative means, proline application increased the measurement of vitamin C which the most amounts of vitamin C by the treatment of proline 0.1% and the least amount of vitamin C by control treatment obtained (table2). The application of proline increases the fruit measurement of vitamin C by increasing photosynthesis and respiration and result in high vitamin C of fruits. These results approve findings of Molazem *et al.* (2010), Du *et al.* (2009) and Serraj and Sinclair (2007).

3-6- Flesh firmness:

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application decreased the fruit flesh firmness which the most amounts of flesh firmness by the treatment of proline 0.1% and the least amount of flesh firmness by the control treatment obtained (table2). The application of proline increases the fruit flesh firmness by increasing enzymatic activities like invertase and amylase and result in decomposition of polysaccharides of cell wall and softening fruits. These results approve findings of Gaddalah (1999) and Sumalee (2011).

3-7- Soluble solid content (brix):

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application increased the fruit soluble solid content (brix) which the most SSC by the treatment of proline 0.2% and the least amount of brix by the control treatment obtained (table2). The application of proline increases the SSC by increasing chlorophyll and photosynthesis. These results approve findings of Robert *et al.* (2000) and Silke *et al.* (2010).

3-8- pH:

According to the tables of comparative mean, proline application increased the pH which the least amount of pH by the treatment of proline 0.1% and the most amount of pH by control treatment obtained that had no significant difference with the treatment of proline 0.2% (table2). The application of proline changes the fruit pH by changing the organic acids of fruits. These results approve findings of Shehata *et al.* (2011), Crisosto (2001) and Ashraf and Foolad (2007).

Conclusion:

Our results show that the application of proline improves some qualitative properties of fruits like vitamin c, total sugar, soluble solid content, protein and decreases some qualitative properties like fruit fiber, dry matter and flesh firmness. Also, proline 0.1% decreases the pH of *Actinidia deliciosa cv. Hayward*.

Table A: Analysis of variance of proline on qualitative properties of fruit

	protein	vitamine c	pH	ssc	firmness	fiber	dry matter	sugar
Replicant	0.065*	133.3 ^{ns}	0.112 ^{ns}	3.33 ^{ns}	11.11 ^{ns}	0.084 ^{ns}	0.334 ^{ns}	1.76 ^{ns}
Treat	0.364**	899.20**	0.561**	13.48**	44.82**	0.833**	0.834**	12.86**
Error	0.0266	266.66	0.166	2.23	16.7	0.067	0.576	2.66
Cv	15.34	13.21	12.81	2.25	4.53	3.51	1.77	11.73

Ns,*,**Nonsignificant, significant at P = 0.05 and 0.01, respectively

Table B: Comparison of means of proline on qualitative properties of fruit

treatment (mg/100gr)	sugar(%)	vitamin c	pH	ssc(%)	firmness(kg)	fiber(%)	dry matter (%)	protein(%)
p1	14.90a	129b	3.13a	15.50a	16.46b	1.56c	3.66c	1.02a
p2	14.60a	144a	3.00b	14.80b	19.49a	1.74b	3.94b	0.90b
Control	12.80b	106c	3.15a	13.00c	16.05c	1.85a	4.20a	0.77c

P1&P2= Proline 2&1g/l, respectively

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