

Effect of foliar application on Plant growth regulators and micronutrient on fruit growth, quality and yield of ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarasi Karaka

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Abstract: The present investigation was undertaken on the effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrient on fruit growth, quality and yield of ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarasi Karaka at horticulture orchard, department of horticulture, Janta college Bakewar, Etawah U.P. The experiment was Investigated in randomized block design known as (RBD) with ten treatments comprising of each three levels of Boron, GA₃, NAA respectively. Spray was done in month of November 2023 at the time of fruit setting stage. A field experiment was escort to assess the effect of Boron (0.04%), Boron (0.06%), Boron (0.08%), GA₃ (10ppm), GA₃ (20ppm), GA₃ (30ppm), NAA (10ppm), NAA (20ppm) and NAA (30ppm) The results clearly showed that the foliar application of treatment T₇ (GA₃ 30ppm) proved most effective followed by T₁₀ (NAA 30ppm) in all the treatment enhance the fruiting characteristics like fruit set, fruit retention, fruit drop, physical characteristics like fruit length, fruit weight, fruit volume, weight of pulp, pulp stone ratio, yield per tree and chemical characteristics like T.S.S., sugar contains like reducing sugar, non-reducing sugar, total sugar and ascorbic acid. However, the control showed minimum value in all the treatments.

1. Introduction

The ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.), a tree in the Rhamnaceae family, is a fast-growing, spreading tree with drooping branches that resemble vines. The young, developing branches of the current year bear the ber fruits in the leaf axil. Therefore, to promote healthy growth and maximize the tree's fruit-bearing area, regular annual pruning is required. Apart from that GA₃ is the most effective in breaking dormancy and causing rapid germination of seeds. Gibberellin influences bolting by stimulating cell division and cell elongation in the sub-apical meristems. Gibberellins have been found very reliable in producing parthenocarpy. Since GA₃ directly regulates elongation, enlargement and growth of cells thus increasing the fruit length and diameter of the olive fruits. **Ramezani and Tiwari (2015)**

Therefore, it is known as "King of Arid Fruits". It requires less care and grows well even in neglected condition and can be successfully grown under the most unfavourable conditions of the soil, water and climate. Ber is important because it is a hardy fruit crop that can be grown in a variety of soils, including deep sandy loam with neutral or slightly alkaline reaction soil. It can also flourish in soil with a pH of 9.2 or even higher. The ripened ber fruits have high nutritive value due to which it is conventionally considered as "poor man's fruit". It is richer in protein, phosphorus, calcium and vitamin c than apple. Various growth regulators and nutrients play an important role in many physiological phenomena like vegetative propagation, induction of seedlessness, increase fruit set, prevention of pre-harvest fruit PGRs (Plant Growth Regulators) are involved in a variety of physiological processes, including vegetative propagation, induction of seedlessness, increased fruit set, prevention of pre-harvest fruit drop, blooming regulation, fruit size inhibition, flower and fruit thinning. In the present investigation the applying foliar application on plant growth regulators and

dr regulation of flowering, fruit size, thinning of flower and fruits, as well as yield in many tree crops. Auxin concentration in the plant is increased to prevent abscission. Fruit drop is also prevented by NAA (Auxin), which strengthens the pedicel. Fruit drop is prevented by a high auxin level in the abscission zone. Application of NAA reduces excess number of fruits on the branch thus promoting the growth of evenly spaced fruits on branch and directly plays a major role in increasing the overall fruit quality of **Olive Arnon et al., (2017)**.

2. Materials and Methods

The current research work was carried out at the horticulture orchard of department of horticulture, Janta College, Bakewar (U.P.), during the research year November 2023 a field experiment was escort to assess the "Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on fruit growth, quality and yield of ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarasi Karaka". The experiment was laid out in R.B.D. with 10 treatment, three replication, the statistical analysis of the data was calculated as suggested by **Panse and Sukhatme (1985)**. The application of boron, GA₃ and NAA enhance fruiting characteristics like fruit set, fruit retention, fruit drop, physical characteristics like fruit length, fruit weight, fruit volume, weight of pulp, pulp stone ratio, yield per tree and chemical characteristics like T.S.S., sugar contains like reducing sugar, non-reducing sugar, total sugar and ascorbic acid.

3. Result and discussion

micronutrients proved significantly effective in raising the percentage of all the characters of fruit. During the research work, the application of various treatments proved significantly effective in treatment T₇ GA₃ (30ppm). Yet, the control showed comparatively least fruit set (27.42) is measured during the investigation of ber fruit. The outcomes are in similar with the

findings of **Sharma et al., (2011)** in ber. The highest value of fruit retention (24.75 %) was noticed in GA₃ (30ppm), followed by fruit retention (22.78%) have observed in NAA (30ppm). While, the smallest value conducted during the investigation of fruit retention (7.86%) shown in the control plants. Similar patterns in respect to **Indrani Majumder et al., 2017** in ber. The lowest value of the fruit drop was (72.11%) was shown in GA₃. Hence, over the control showed highest value of fruit drop (91.15%). These results are partially consistent with findings by **Raj Bala Choudhary et al., 2020** in ber crop. The ongoing investigation the application of various treatments proved significantly effective an improving the fruit length, it also clearly indicates in Chinese date (ber) fruit that the effect of Boron, GA₃ and NAA on the physical parameters in ber fruit. The data revealed that all the treatments had significant effects

on fruit length (cm) over control plants. The largest value of fruit length was (4.96 cm) found in GA₃ (30ppm). While, the fruit length of control (3.24 cm) shown the lowest value. These results are corroborated by the findings of **Vishwakarma et al., (2015) in ber**. The maximum fruit weight was reported with the foliar application (18.72 gm) was recorded in GA₃ (30ppm). Thus, the minimal value over the control was (14.30 gm) is measured during the investigation of ber fruit. The results are further supported by the findings of **Raj Bala Choudhary et al., 2020 in ber**. The value of fruit volume (cc) showed that all the treatments increased except the control plants. The supreme value of fruit volume was (13.79) have noticed in GA₃ (30ppm), However, the control (11.75) showed minimum value of fruit volume. These findings supported previously by **Sheel Priya et al., (2023)** in ber

Table -1: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on fruiting characteristics of fruits in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana Lamk.*) cv. Banarasi Karaka.

Sr. No.	Notation	Treatment	Fruit set (%)	Fruit retention (%)	Fruit drop (%)
1.	T ₁	Control	27.42	7.86	91.15
2.	T ₂	Boron (0.04%)	25.87	11.68	90.19
3.	T ₃	Boron (0.06%)	27.33	12.49	88.26
4.	T ₄	Boron (0.08%)	29.73	13.57	85.53
5.	T ₅	GA ₃ (10ppm)	31.07	18.50	82.39
6.	T ₆	GA ₃ (20ppm)	32.47	20.10	77.69
7.	T ₇	GA₃ (30ppm)	34.17	24.75	72.11
8.	T ₈	NAA (10ppm)	30.27	15.62	83.26
9.	T ₉	NAA (20ppm)	31.17	19.52	80.49
10.	T ₁₀	NAA (30ppm)	33.21	22.78	75.10

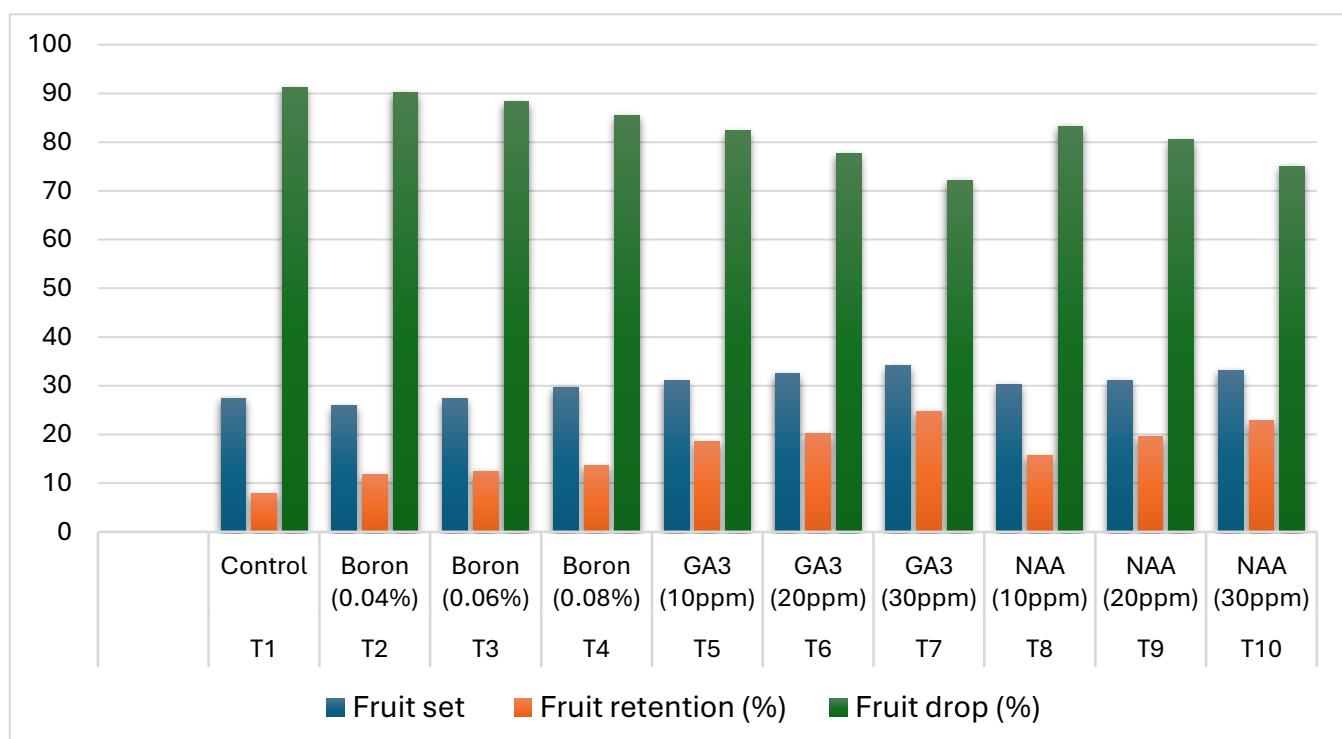


Fig. -1: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on fruiting characteristics of fruits in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana Lamk.*) cv. Banarasi Karaka

Table -2: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on physical characteristics of fruits in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana Lamk.*) cv. Banarasi Karaka.

Sr. No.	Notation	Treatment	Fruit length (cm)	Fruit weight (gm)	Fruit volume (cc)	Weight of pulp (gm)	Pulp stone ratio	Yield (Kg/tree)
1.	T ₁	Control	3.24	14.30	11.75	12.05	5.36	23.10
2.	T ₂	Boron (0.04%)	3.31	16.26	12.40	13.71	5.37	24.06
3.	T ₃	Boron (0.06%)	3.43	16.48	12.69	13.87	5.31	26.70
4.	T ₄	Boron (0.08%)	3.63	15.37	12.85	12.75	4.86	27.06
5.	T ₅	GA ₃ (10ppm)	4.04	16.89	13.45	14.28	5.47	30.53
6.	T ₆	GA ₃ (20ppm)	4.62	17.73	13.68	15.16	5.90	31.55
7.	T ₇	GA ₃ (30ppm)	4.96	18.72	13.79	16.10	6.14	33.17
8.	T ₈	NAA (10ppm)	3.83	16.65	12.92	14.03	5.35	30.44
9.	T ₉	NAA (20ppm)	4.33	17.47	13.63	14.87	5.71	31.54
10.	T ₁₀	NAA (30ppm)	4.75	18.64	13.77	16.05	5.94	32.45

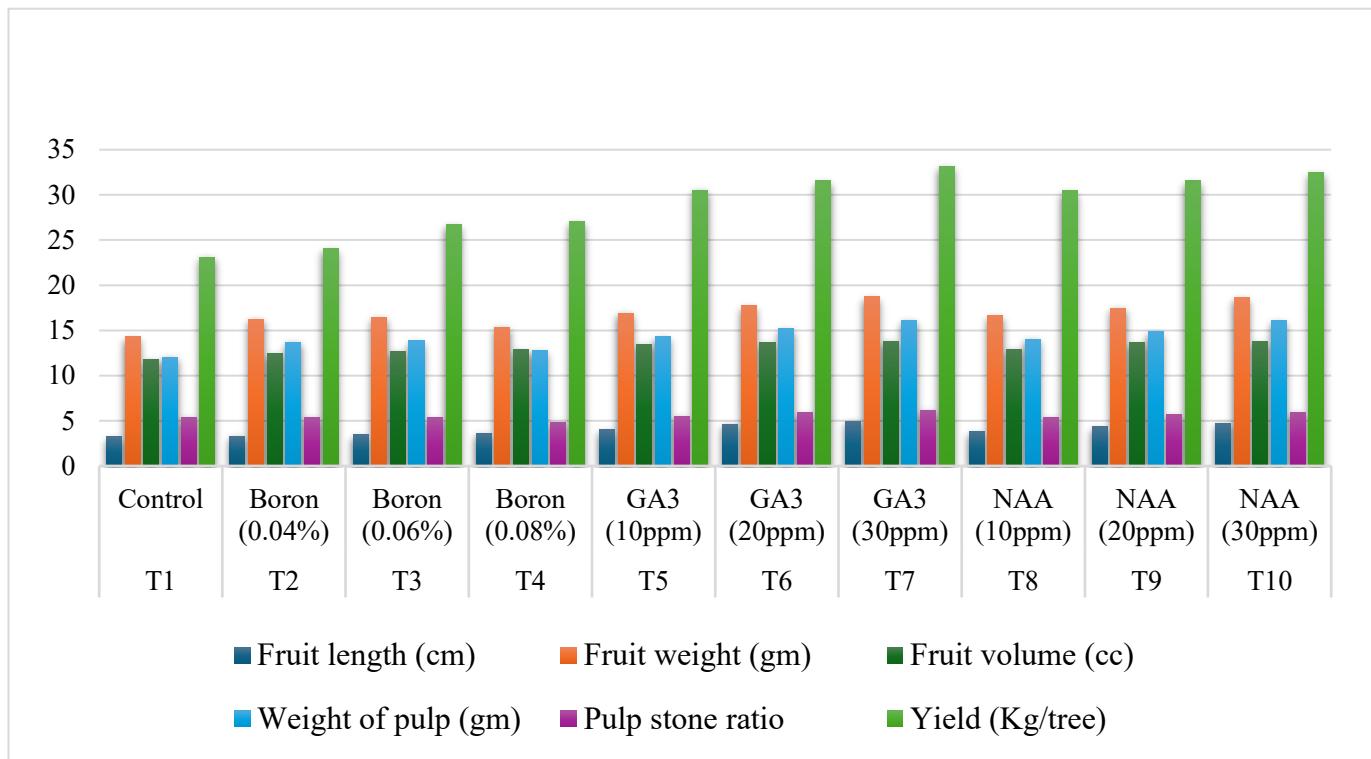


Fig. -2: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on physical characteristics of fruits in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarsi Karaka.

The higher weight of pulp (16.10 gm) was observed in treatment GA₃ (30ppm) and the control showed comparatively lower weight of pulp (12.05 gm) respectively. The combination of different treatment of PGR and micronutrients are significantly affected by pulp stone ratio, the maximum pulp stone ratio (6.14) was noticed in treatment GA₃ (30ppm). However, the control showed minimum value of pulp stone ratio (5.36). These results are in similar with the findings of **Yadav *et al.*, (2014) in ber**. The supreme value of fruit yield was (33.17 Kg/tree) have noticed in application of GA₃ (30ppm), Hence, over control showed minimal value of fruit yield (23.10 Kg/tree) respectively. These results are in similar with the findings of **Bhosale and Singh (2017)** in ber. The application of plant growth regulators and micronutrients in chemical characters are significantly increased the percentage of T.S.S. (°Brix) in ber fruits. The critical observation of the data showed that the most extreme value of T.S.S. (15.65 °Brix) was obtained in GA₃ (30ppm), Thus, the bottom value of T.S.S. (10.04 °Brix) recorded in the control respectively. These results are in similar with the findings of **Sheel Priya *et al.*, (2023)** in ber. The superior value of reducing sugar (6.01) was identified in treatment GA₃ (30ppm). Yet, the

control showed comparatively least value of reducing sugar is (4.85). The uttermost value of the non - reducing sugar (4.35) in all the treatment which is taken in the research work of ber fruit was shown in higher in GA₃ (30ppm). Hence, over the control showed minimal value of non- reducing value (2.52) respectively. The largest value of total sugar was (10.07) found in GA₃ (30ppm). While, the total sugar of control plant (7.40) shown the lowest value. These outcomes are comparable to the findings of **Ritesh Singh *et al.*, (2023)**. The supreme value of ascorbic acid was (45.17mg/100g) have noticed in application of GA₃ (30ppm). Hence, over control showed minimal value of ascorbic acid was (39.12mg/100g) respectively.

4. Future Prospects

The goal of the study is to assess how foliar utilisation of Plant growth regulators and micronutrient on fruit growth, quality and yield of ber cv. Banarsi Karaka. By applying PGR and nutrients topically to the ber plant, this study will help standardize the nutrient dosages and PGR and provide a lucrative yield.

5. Conclusion

Studied thus, suggests that the foliar application of GA₃ (30ppm), increasing in all the parameters like fruiting characteristics, physical characteristics and chemical characteristics. After that followed by showed the second most superior value NAA (30ppm) and at last the minimum value shown in all the treatment over control plants and

these results should be recommended for the commercial production for the farmers field.

Table -3: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on chemical characteristics of fruits in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarsi Karaka.

Sr. No.	Notation	Treatment	T.S.S.	Reducing	Non- Reducing	Total sugar	Ascorbic acid
1	T ₁	Control	10.04	4.85	2.52	7.40	39.12
2	T ₂	Boron (0.04%)	10.81	4.88	2.96	7.88	39.35
3	T ₃	Boron (0.06%)	11.40	4.90	2.94	7.90	39.43
4	T ₄	Boron (0.08%)	12.21	5.03	3.09	8.15	39.50
5	T ₅	GA ₃ (10ppm)	13.78	5.20	3.70	8.93	39.75
6	T ₆	GA ₃ (20ppm)	14.87	5.52	4.14	9.69	41.25
7	T ₇	GA₃ (30ppm)	15.65	6.01	4.35	10.07	45.17
8	T ₈	NAA (10ppm)	13.50	5.15	3.20	8.39	39.63
9	T ₉	NAA (20ppm)	14.65	5.38	3.81	9.21	40.07
10	T ₁₀	NAA (30ppm)	15.00	5.63	4.16	9.85	43.85

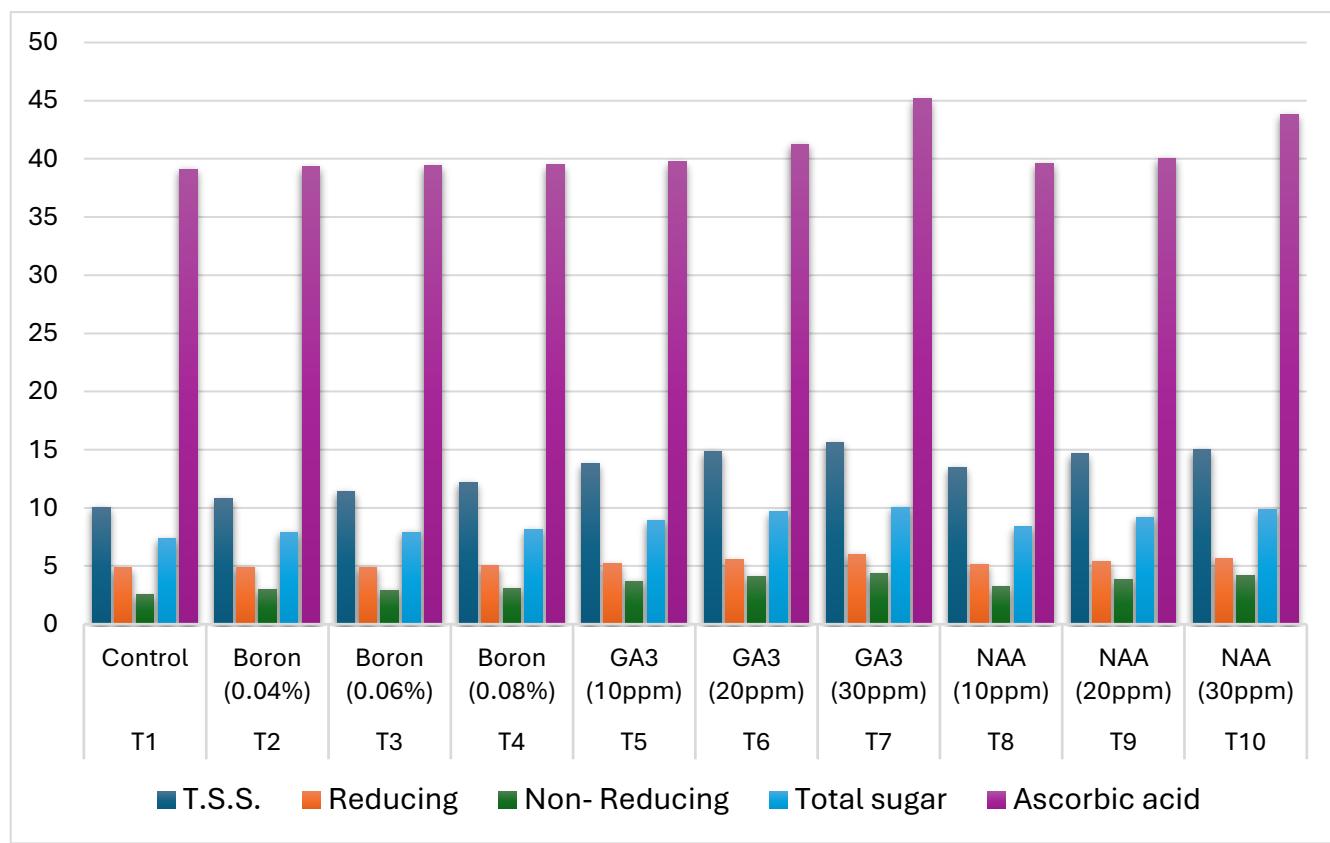


Fig. -3: Effect of foliar application on plant growth regulators and micronutrients on chemical characteristics in ber (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) cv. Banarsi Karaka.

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