



Potassium nitrate sprays improve earliness of fruit maturation in strawberry

In strawberry, hydrogen cyanamide (HC) and potassium nitrate (PN) can be used to break the dormancy. To study the effects of these substances, four experiments were carried out in Spain to find the most suitable spray product, dose and period of application. In one of the experiments with 3,0% potassium nitrate and 0,5% HC, potassium nitrate gave earlier yields ($P=0,05$), but total yields were similar. Average fruit weight of plants treated with potassium nitrate and HC were higher than control plants at the end of the season, but no significant differences were detected for early production (Table 1).

Table 1. Commercial production and average fruit weight after spray application directly to the crown of potassium nitrate (PN) and hydrogen cyanamide (HC).

Treatment Tratamientos	Commercial production (g/plant) Producción comercial (g/planta)		Average fruit weight (g/fruit) Peso promedio de la fruta (g/plant)	
	31 Mar	31 May	31 Mar	31 May
Control	36,4 b	138,5 a	10,2 a	10,5 b
PN 3%	56,7 a	140,1 a	12,2 a	11,7 a
HC 0,5%	38,1 b	127,1 a	10,7 a	11,2 a