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The effect of foliar applied potassium nitrate on four-year-old bearing 'Hass' avocado (

Persea

Americana

Mill.) trees was studied. KNO_3 (potassium nitrate) was sprayed on the leaves at a rate of 3,6 kg per 100 liters of water. A single spray was applied at half leaf expansion, full leaf expansion or one month after full expansion.

A combination of two and three of these spray treatment times was also done. The leaves were wetted to a point where the spray solution started dripping from the leaves. Approximately 11,35 liters of spray solution per tree was applied.

Foliar applications of KNO_3 (potassium nitrate) were effective in increasing the K (potassium) level in the leaves of 'Hass' avocado trees. Two or three sprays were most effective in increasing the K content. Results indicated that spraying one month after full leaf expansion was the most effective moment to increase the K (potassium) content of avocado trees. Several interactions appeared to exist among the macro- and micronutrient content of the leaves as induced by the K applications. All treatments significantly increased the leaf Zn level compared to the control. The three spray treatments increased the Mn level above the control.