

SUGAR ORANGE FLOWER RETENTION EXPERIMENT

R&D to meet the Changing Face of Consumer Demand



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Overview

The citrus industry in Guangxi Province has rapidly developed in recent years.

In particular, the citrus growing areas in Guilin, Liuzhou, as well as other horticultural locations, are continuing to expand. Many farmers have earned excellent profits from the 6-8 Yuan per Jin Sugar Orange price in 2016, so much so, that some traditional grape and rice growing areas, attracted by the larger profit margins, have decided to enter the citrus growing market. Notwithstanding this surge of interest, problems have been incurred along the way in step with the gradual expansion of the citrus industry as a whole.



Retail citrus cultivation, relatively extensive management, excessive fertiliser application and over-fertilisation have all contributed to serious soil compaction in the Guangxi area.

The scientific fertilisation method for citrus growers is repeatedly a small amount. Although the fertilisation number of Sugar Orange can be slightly reduced, it also should be divided into 4-5 times per year fertilisation.

With the improvement of people's living standards, consumers are increasingly demanding a better quality of agricultural products. These changes in market demand also allow growers to pay more attention to the quality of their products. So, the key for the industry is to help farmers grow high-quality agricultural products.

Growth characteristics and fruit quality of citrus treated with the RLF products are better than those using different methods of crop nutrition.



The Experiment

RLF Sales Manager for the Guangxi Province, Zhang Xianyun, carried out a Sugar Orange flower retention experiment from 1st February 2017 to 31st March 2017 in Yadang Village, Toupai Town, Jinxiu County, Laibin City, Guangxi Province.

Let's take a look at the crop nutrition program used and see the application effect of RLF products.

1. 20 days before spring shoots

Products used : Fertigation **Plant Milk High-N**, Foliar spray **Power PK** and Single Element Foliar **Boron Plus**.

The purpose : To advance the growth of spring shoots. High phosphorus and potassium can strengthen the flower growth and reduce the first time fruit drop. **Boron Plus** ensures fertilisation rate and improves fruit preservation rate.



2. Spring shoots period

Products used : Ultra Foliar **Fruits & Veggies Plus**, Single Element Foliar **Boron Plus** and **Brassinolide** (plant hormone).

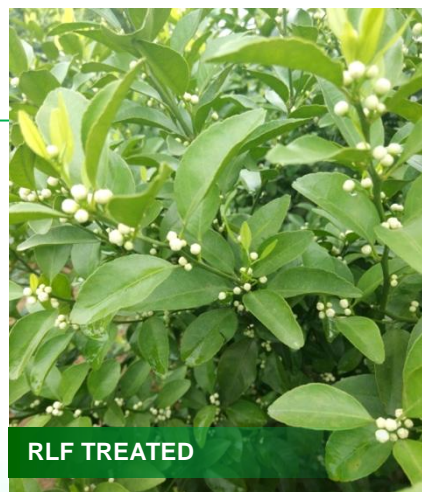
The purpose : By providing full crop nutrition to achieve the effects of flower retention and protection against cold conditions and pests.



3. Appearance of flower bud period

Products used : Ultra Foliar **Fruits & Veggies Plus**, Single Element Foliar **Boron Plus** and **Brassinolide** (plant hormone).

The purpose : By providing full crop nutrition to achieve flower retention and protection against late spring coldness.



4. Early flowering period

Products used : Ultra Foliar **Fruits & Veggies Plus**, Single Element Foliar **Boron Plus** and **Brassinolide** (plant hormone).

The purpose : To ensure fertilisation rate and flower retention.



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UNTREATED

Excellent Results

- The Sugar Oranges treated with the RLF's crop nutrition program all have strong and even flowers.
- The leaf has thick green colour.
- And the treated fruit trees have less deformity of flowers – whereas the untreated fruit trees have many more deformed flowers that are weak.

Conclusion

The RLF Team led by Zhang Xianyun, together with the growers were all delighted with the outcome of the experiment. The photographs clearly demonstrate very strong support for the results attained by following the fertigation and foliar spraying routine at four intervals during the growing season.



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