

HOW TO PRESERVE BOTH FLOWER AND FRUIT OF CITRUS

RLF Crop Nutrition Management Produces Excellent Results

Authorised for release by:

Melanie Wu,
Deputy General Manager, RLF China

There is a well-known saying within citrus growing circles. It goes, "If blooms and young fruits are well preserved, citrus yields are guaranteed".

In April 2021, farmers in the citrus planting area in Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province, faced the crucial period of flower bloom and development of the young fruit. During this period, the nutrition supply to the fruit trees is crucial. Efficient flower and fruit preservation is the first and most critical step in the citrus harvest.

Recently, the RLF Technical Team paid a return visit to RLF 'Flower and Fruit Preservation Nutrition Program' demonstration site in Ganzhou. Here is what we found.

Details of Trial

Farmer	Liu Fuguang	
Location	Tankou Town, Zhanggong District, Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province	
Trial Size	1,000 citrus trees, aged approx. 6-7 years of hanging fruit	
RLF Fertiliser Products	Growth Period	Crop Nutrition Program Used
	Tip Period	Foliar Spray with RLF Fruits and Veggies Plus (dilute 1:500) Irrigate with RLF Plant Milk High-N (dilute 1:200)
	Blossom Period	Foliar Spray with RLF Fruits and Veggies Plus (dilute 1:500) + RLF Boron Plus (dilute 1:1,000) Irrigate with RLF Plant Milk High-N (dilute 1:200)
	80% Flower Withering Period	Foliar Spray with RLF Fruits and Veggies Plus (dilute 1:500) Irrigate with RLF Plant Milk High-K (dilute 1:200)

Overall Contrast

Compared with trees using a conventional fertilisation scheme, the trees in the demonstration gardens under the RLF Nutrition Program were more vigorous. The leaves were darker, and the fruit set rate was higher.



Leaf Contrast

The spring shoots of the citrus trees in RLF Demonstration gardens were full, matured early, developed well, accumulated more nutrients, and lignified highly. This kind of high-quality spring shoots makes it easier to preserve the developing fruit. The citrus leaves of trees grown with a conventional fertiliser program were shown to be yellow, and both slow-growing and slow to ripen.



Fruit Setting Rate Contrast

Citrus flower and fruit preservation is not just a matter of spraying regulators at a given point of time in the development of the fruit – it is a systematic and comprehensive crop nutrition program, worked upon from the outset of the crop's yearly growth.



Conclusion

It is worth repeating, because this fact is true, and growers who implement it will benefit from better crop outcomes. Citrus flower and fruit preservation is not a matter of only spraying regulators, as attention needs to be given to a systematic and comprehensive nutrition program.

At present, there are still a lot of fruit growers who think that spraying fruit protection medicines in the citrus fruit and fruit period is equal to keeping the flowers and fruits. But they pay little attention to nutrition supplement, or to allow for the adjustment and recovery of the tree's condition.

In the final analysis, plant management is really all about plant nutrition.

Attention must be paid to the management of nutrients throughout the entire life of the orchard. In spring, many nutrients are consumed when the citrus shoots develop and blossom, and especially at that time when the citrus blossoms die. It is important for nutrient levels to be maintained, at an optimum level, throughout the entire cropping season.

By using the specialised liquid crop nutrition products identified in the successful program used by farmer Mr Liu (being foliar sprayed with **RLF Fruits and Veggies Plus**, irrigated with **Plant Milk High-N** and **Plant Milk High-K** at the proper times, and supported by **Boron Plus**) will help to quickly add the vital tip, protect the leaves for flowers, promote a quick turn green spring tip to old practice, improve the quality of flowering and fruit setting rate, and lay a solid foundation for a much richer harvest to follow.



Left: RLF Sales Manager Mr Tan
Right: farmer Mr Liu

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