

The high proportion of seedless fruits reflects the limited amount of cross-pollination occurring, yet preventing insect pollination greatly reduced set. This indicates that a limited amount of pollen of other varieties was available for cross-pollination by bees. The effects of GA<sub>3</sub> on blossoms which were bagged or whose styles were cut confirm the responses obtained by previous workers. However, GA appears to have limited use in commercial pear growing under New York conditions, even in the absence of adequate cross-pollination. An increase in yield was observed only when the controls set very few fruits (Orchard A, 1968), while a reduction in yield occurred when fruit set was heavy (Orchard B, 1965). In areas where spring frosts are a hazard, its use might be beneficial, especially if inhibition of flowering can be limited by petal fall application of Alar as suggested by the data in Table 3.

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Table 3. Effects of potassium gibberellate (KGA<sub>3</sub>) and Alar upon fruit set and flower bud formation, 1965-66.

Treatment 1965 <sup>x</sup>	Fruits/100 flower clusters <sup>y</sup> 1965	% Spurs flowering <sup>y</sup> 1966
<b>Orchard A</b>		
Tween 20 only	—	50 <sup>b</sup>
KGA <sub>3</sub> , 100 ppm	—	5 <sup>a</sup>
KGA <sub>3</sub> , 100 ppm plus Alar, 1000 ppm	—	26 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Orchard B</b>		
Tween 20 only	78 <sup>b</sup>	16 <sup>b</sup>
KGA <sub>3</sub> , 25 ppm	19 <sup>a</sup>	8 <sup>ab</sup>
KGA <sub>3</sub> , 50 ppm	52 <sup>ab</sup>	3 <sup>a</sup>
KGA <sub>3</sub> , 50 ppm plus Alar, 500 ppm	35 <sup>a</sup>	13 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>x</sup>KGA<sub>3</sub> applied at petal fall (Orchard B) or at full bloom or petal fall (Orchard A); Alar applied at petal fall.

<sup>y</sup>Within sets, means not followed by the same letter are significantly different from one another at the 5% level.

Table 4. Effects of gibberellic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>) and Alar upon fruit set, seed development, and flowering. Orchard A, 1968-69.

	GA <sub>3</sub> (ppm)			Alar (ppm)		
	0	20	40	0	500	1000
Fruits/100 flower clusters	1.1	9.6**	7.8**	4.2	7.6	6.2
% Seedless fruits	25	76**	82**	57	58	68
% Spurs flowering	86	76	74	77	73	87

\*\*Significantly different from no GA<sub>3</sub> at the 1% level.

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## Effect of Succinic Acid 2, 2-Dimethyl Hydrazide on Carotene Development in 'Alphonso' Mango<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract.** Five minute dips in aqueous solutions of 2,500 ppm Alar at 25C had no consistent effect on carotene content of the flesh of 'Alphonso' mangoes. A similar dip at 53C caused an increase in both total carotenoids and in  $\beta$ -carotene. This was associated with increased respiratory rate and advance of the respiratory climacteric.

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Succinic acid 2,2-dimethyl hydrazide (Alar) has been extensively used in recent years by horticulturists for the stimulation of external fruit color (1, 2). Many other chemicals and auxins are also used as pre- or post-harvest treatments to enhance color and improve the market quality of fresh produce (3, 4).

Earlier investigations in this laboratory indicated accelerated ripening and advanced respiratory climacteric maximum when mango fruit

was treated with Alar as a post-harvest, momentary dip (5). It was thought desirable to examine the effect of this treatment on the development of carotenoids in the mango fruit.

Mature 'Alphonso' mangoes harvested from a nearby orchard were used in this investigation. The fruits were dip-treated within 24 hours after harvest as follows: 1) cold water at 25C; b) hot water at 53  $\pm$  1C; c) cold water at 25C containing Alar 85, 2500 ppm; and d) hot water at 53  $\pm$  1C containing Alar

85, 2500 ppm. Three hundred fruits were used for each treatment. After dipping for 5 minutes, the fruits were air-dried and stored, along with controls, in ventilated wooden crates at ambient storage ( $26 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ; 45-65% relative humidity). The fruits were taken out of the crates after 15 days, and flesh homogenates of 10 fruits were used for analysis. Total carotenoid pigments were extracted with acetone and taken up with petroleum ether (bp 60-80°C);  $\beta$ -carotene was separated on a magnesia supercell (1:3) column (6) and estimated colorimetrically, using a Spectronic-20 colorimeter, according to the method of Zechmeister and Polgar (7). All estimations were carried out on triplicate homogenate samples. The results are presented in Table 1.

Fruits dipped in hot aqueous solutions of Alar recorded maximum total carotenoids ( $1,3310 \mu\text{g}/100 \text{ g}$ ) and  $\beta$ -carotene ( $7219 \mu\text{g}/100 \text{ g}$ ), compared to the control or other treatments. A hot water dip alone (without Alar treatment) increased the total as well as  $\beta$ -carotene in fruits compared to a cold water dip or the control group. Fruits dipped in a cold aqueous solution of Alar recorded total and  $\beta$ -carotene values similar to untreated fruits, although Alar stimulated  $\beta$ -carotene development compared to cold water dip treatment. The results clearly indicate that Alar-85 at 2500 ppm in hot water, stimulated carotenoid, particularly  $\beta$ -carotene development in the mango fruit.

Table 1. Total carotenoids and  $\beta$ -carotene in dip-treated mangoes after 15 days storage.

Treatment	Carotenoids <sup>a</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/100 \text{ g}$ )	
	Total	$\beta$ -carotene
Control	10,885	5,088
a) Cold water; $25^\circ\text{C}$ for 5 min	10,648	4,627
b) Hot water; $53 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for 5 min	11,383	5,232
c) Cold water; $25^\circ\text{C}$ + Alar-85 (2500 ppm)	10,419	5,075
d) Hot water; $53 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ + Alar-85 (2500 ppm)	13,310	7,219

<sup>a</sup>Average of 3 replicates.

The manner in which dip treatment in hot water containing Alar hastens ripening and stimulates color development is not clearly known. Studies conducted in our laboratory indicated increased respiration rate and advanced respiratory climacteric maximum. It is, therefore, likely that the treatment increases the permeability of the external tissue and activates the enzymes responsible for carotene synthesis.

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## Post-Year Effects of N-Dimethylaminosuccinamic Acid on 'Concord' Grapes, *Vitis labrusca* L.<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Abstract.** The effects from the foliar aqueous sprays of DMAS applied between pre- and full-bloom to mature 'Concord' grape vines did not appear to be transmitted to the post-treatment year. The number of clusters per vine in the post-treatment year was not influenced either by the concentration or the time of application of DMAS. Yield of DMAS treated vines in the post-treatment year was highly correlated with the number of clusters per vine that year.

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In a previous paper, the immediate effects of various singular foliar aqueous sprays of N-dimethylaminosuccinamic acid (DMAS) on 'Concord' grapes were reported (1). Treatments of DMAS were found, both in 1965 and 1966, to influence berry set, size of berries, cluster weight, vine yield, and cane development. It is the purpose of this report to indicate the performance of these same 'Concord' grape vines during the year after treatment, 1966 and 1967 respectively.

**Treatments in 1965.** Vines had been divided into 4 replications of similar pruning weights (1). Applications had been timed at pre-bloom on June 11, full-bloom on June 21, and post-bloom on June 30, 1965. DMAS, code B-995,

was applied at concentrations of active material of 0, 750, 1250, 1750, or 2250 ppm. Vines were balanced pruned both in the pre-treatment and treatment years following the 30 + 10 procedure for leaving buds per vine (1).

In the year after treatment (1966), the effects of DMAS on cluster development were determined by obtaining from each plot vine the total weight of grapes, total number of clusters, and vine cluster weight; and from a 4-cluster sample on each plot vine the number of berries per cluster, cluster weight, weight per berry, % total soluble solids of the berry juice, and length of the cluster rachis. The sample clusters for each plot vine consisted of the basal cluster on each of 4 shoots