

ENHANCING THE EFFECT OF DORMEX AND DROPP FOR REST BREAKING IN PEACHES

Bobby Boozer and Jim Pitts

Rest-breaking compounds are needed infrequently on peaches in Central Alabama. However, in three of the past five years the total number of chilling hours has been less than desirable. Dormex and Dropp have been evaluated for breaking rest for several years at the Chilton Research and Extension Center. The most effective concentration of Dormex 1 to 2% is costly and the recommended amount of Dropp has not been very effective on peach flower buds.

A recent study was set up to evaluate the possibility of enhancing the performance of "Dormex" at 0.5 % and "Dropp" at 200 ppm with the addition of dormant oil. Treatments were applied to single scaffold limbs in a block of 'Cresthaven' peaches. Treatments consisted of the following: (1) Untreated control, (2)

0.5 % Dormex plus 0.25 % non-ionic surfactant, (3) 200 ppm Dropp plus 2 % Dormant oil, (4) 0.5 % Dormex plus 200 ppm Dropp plus 2% Dormant oil, (5) 0.5 % Dormex plus 2 % Dormant oil, (6) 200 ppm Dropp plus 2 % Dormant oil plus 1000 ppm N.

Treatments were applied on January 31 with backpack mist blower. Bud stage development was measured on March 20 and the first harvest was on July 15.

The total number of buds per shoot was highest for all treatments over the untreated control. Fruit bud development appeared to be affected by total bud number per shoot with little affect from treatments. The enhancement of Dormex and Dropp with dormant oil was not successful in this study.