

Pre-harvest foliar sprays of salicylic acid enhance berry quality of table grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) cv. Flame Seedless

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WAH Champa*¹, MIS. Gill¹, BVC Mahajan², NK Arora¹ and Seema Bedi³

1 Department of Fruit Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, 141 004, Punjab, India.

2 Punjab Horticultural Post Harvest Technology Centre, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, 141 004, India.

3 Department of Botany, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, 141 004, Punjab, India.

The purpose of the present study was to examine the significance of preharvest application of salicylic acid (SA) to improve physicochemical properties of clusters and berries of grape cv. Flame Seedless. The study was conducted in two consecutive seasons of 2012 and 2013 on 12-year old own rooted, Flame Seedless vines planted at 3m x 3m spacing (440 plants acre-1) trained on overhead system. Vines were treated with four concentrations of SA (0.0, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 mM) when the berries were at pea stage (2 weeks after fruit set) and again at veraison (colour break). Clusters were harvested at commercial maturity and analysed for bunch and berry weight, length, breadth, peel colour, firmness, TSS, TA, anthocyanins and total phenols. The results revealed that spraying of SA at the dose of 1.5 mM reduced cluster compactness, increased berry size, decreased berry lightness (L*) while increasing total anthocyanin content and berry firmness significantly.