

balance between them when deciding on the rate of K fertilizer to apply.

Summary

Most citrus growers treat K as they do N, applying approximately the same rate of K_2O and N each year, in split applications or in small doses with irrigation water (fertigation). Soil testing for K is of little use, but leaf tissue tests can be used to gauge tree K nutrition. The ideal annual K fertilizer rate for citrus appears to be about 200 lb K_2O/A . Fresh market citrus growers should recognize that K affects fresh fruit quality factors ...size and sweetness...as well as yield, and then take all these factors into account when formulating a fertilization program. **BC**

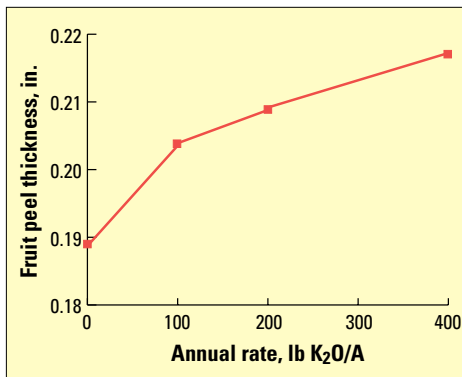


Figure 5. Grapefruit peel thickness increased (a negative effect) as K fertilizer rate increased.

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Tom W. Bruulsema Elected Chairman of ICCA Board

Dr. Tom Bruulsema, PPI/PPIC Regional Director for Eastern Canada and Northeast U.S., has been elected Chairman of the International Certified Crop Adviser (ICCA) Board for 2003. In the responsibility, he will be part of a leadership team for the organization of nearly 15,000 professional crop advisers across the U.S. and Canada.



certification program offered by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). It is voluntary and provides an entry level standard of knowledge through testing and seeks to raise that standard through continuing education. The program is administered locally by 37 state/regional/provincial boards (Local Boards) throughout the U.S. and Canada.

“We’ve recently been putting together a strategic plan for the next three years. Our main goal is clearly to increase the value of certification,” Dr. Bruulsema explained. “Certified crop advisers have an important role in assuring quality in crop production and in delivering an important message not only directly to their clients, but also to the food supply chain, and even to today’s consumer.”

The ICCA Program is a professional

Dr. Bruulsema, a native of Ancaster, Ontario, directs the agronomic research and education programs of PPI/PPIC in his diverse region, which includes 14 states and the eastern provinces of Canada. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Dr. Bruulsema joined the PPI/PPIC staff in 1994 and is located at Guelph, Ontario. He has recently served as Chairman of the Northeast Branch of ASA and the Soil Science Society of America. **BC**