



Supplemental Foliar Potassium Applications with or without a Surfactant Can Enhance Netted Muskmelon Quality

USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Texas A&M University researchers at Weslaco, Texas, found that supplementing soil potassium (K) with foliar K applications during muskmelon fruit development and maturation improved fruit quality by increasing firmness, sugar content, ascorbic acid, and beta-carotene levels. This glasshouse study compared two K sources: potassium metalosate (KM), which is a glycine-complexed organic form, and potassium chloride (KCl).

Differences between the two K sources were minimal and use of a surfactant tended to have a positive effect on the re-

sponse to supplemental foliar K applications. These quality improvements were obtained by implementing a simple management tool (foliar-applied K using generally available K compounds plus a surfactant) that growers can adopt all over the world. **BC**

Source: Lester, G.E., J.L. Jifon, and D.J. Makus. 2006. *HortScience* 41(3):741-744.

For additional information, contact: glistler@weslaco.ars.usda.gov.

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