



Effects of Fertilization with KF-20 on Paprika Yields



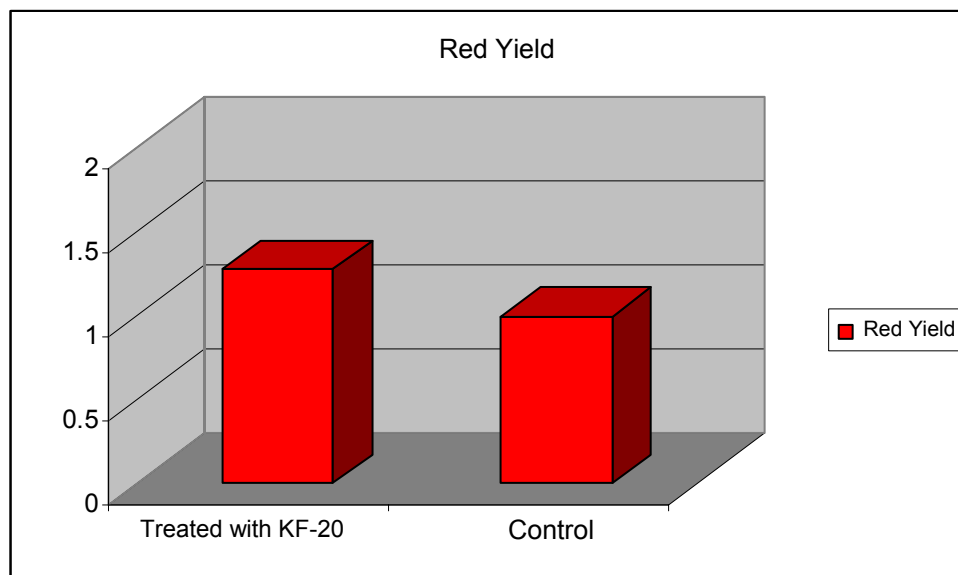
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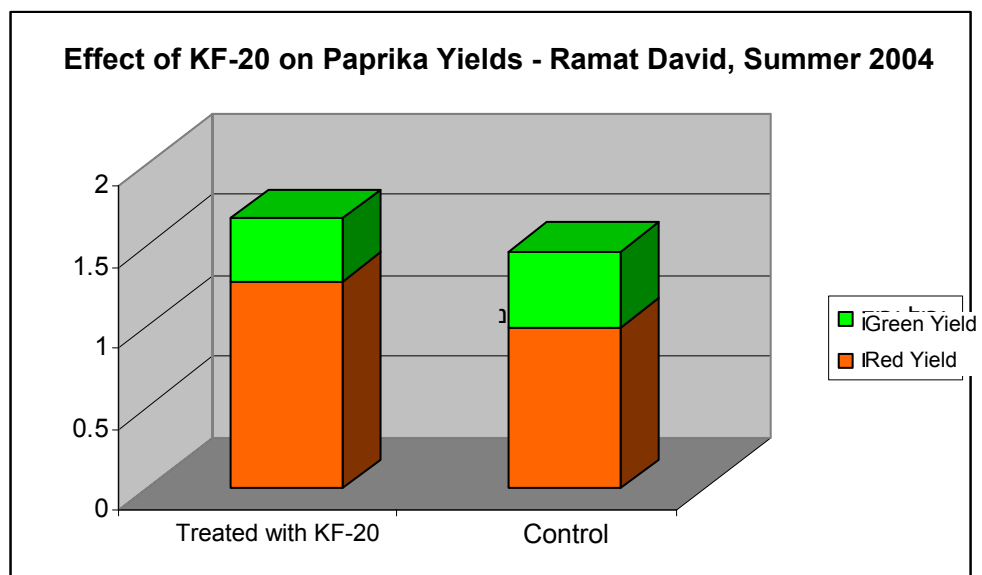
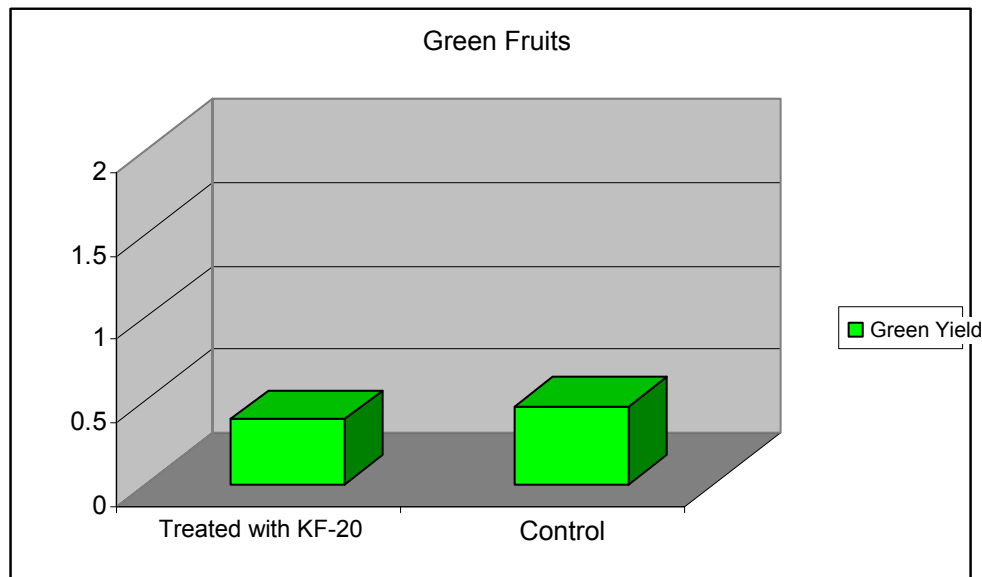
KF is a liquid organic fertilizer manufactured by the VGI plant, Ramat Hasharon. The fertilizer is in use for many years, and the investigation of its effects provided mixed findings. Regardless, the fertilizer is in widespread use in California. We thought that several observations and tests should be conducted with the material in order to study its effectivity and in order to improve the available methods for application, for the benefit of organic farmers and for other farmers in Israel.

The observations were conducted on a commercial area at Kibbutz Ramat David, which was sown in May 2004.

The area of 20 dunam was treated through water, with a dosage of 2 liters KF-20 per dunam.

One day prior to commercial harvesting of the area, in October 2004, 5 plots were sampled from the treated area, with a control area of one meter length and width of the bed - for yield and distribution per color as a scale of measure for ripening.





Results:

An advantage was indicated of yields from the area that was treated with KF, versus the remaining, untreated area. The advantage is mainly in the redness of the fruits rather than in the overall yield, as a tendency for earlier ripening was observed - fewer green peppers (that are not intended for marketing) from the treated plot.

An additional advantage observed in the field showed less dropping of fruits in the treated areas.

In Summary:

From results of the observation it seems that KF has a positive influence in respect to increased yield, earlier fruition and more uniform fruits, as well as an effect in respect to less dropping of fruits (which is significant for harvesting). As the above test case is an observation only with no repetitions, a statistical analysis could not be conducted. We suggest repeating the observation within the scope of a well ordered test - possibly in strips which could statistically prove the effectivity of KF as an additive to paprika.

Thanks to Roy and Gilad from Ramat David for their help and cooperation which led to the success of the observation.