

Preventing Citrus Flower from Falling off

Written by Administrator
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In July 2009, I fertilized 158 citrus trees of 4 years old. I used one part of Urea, one part of ZA, and one part of Phonska. The dose was 2 kg per plant. Prior to fertilizing, I made the plant water stress for 1 month expecting new buds would emerge and then turn into flowers. However, there were only 5—10% of buds that became flowers. What I would like to ask:

1. Are potassium chlorate ($KClO_3$) and sodium chlorate ($NaClO_3$) applicable to stimulate inflorescence on citrus just as on longan? How much dose per plant and where can the material be purchased?
2. What is the usage instruction of paclobutrazol?

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1. Potassium content in potassium chlorate ($KClO_3$) assists photosynthesis process or carbohydrate assimilation so that it promotes C/N content. Potassium also stimulates phase shifting from vegetative to generative which generate flowers and fruits. Nevertheless, chlor element in $KClO_3$ enlarges inter-cell spots so that the cell will be full of water and bloated. High water content makes the citrus tasteless. Likewise, sodium in sodium chlorate ($NaClO_3$)

³) is not an important element required by plants. In general, the utilization of potassium chlorate and sodium chlorate on citrus tree is not recommended. In order to prevent the flower and young fruit from falling, the plant should be given fertilizer consisting of calcium element, for example, dolomitic or agricultural lime as much as 200 mg/m²

. The fertilizer is dispersed on the basal trunk once in a year.

2. Paclobutrazol is better sprayed onto the tip of twig which is a growing point where leaf bud and flower bud emerge. Paclobutrazol stimulates inflorescence by pressing vegetative growth. As an impact, such pressing will promote C/N content so that the plant is stimulated to enter generative phase. In that way, approximately 1 month after stimulation, the twig will form flower, young fruit, and developed fruit.***

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