

Title Effects of irrigation and winter pruning on the anticipation of the harvest of 'Diamante' peaches.
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Abstract

Eight-year-old plants of peach cv. Diamante were cultivated in vase training system at a spacing of 4x4 m in Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil. These plants were submitted to winter pruning at different dates from 5 May to 21 June 1995. After pruning, hydrogen cyanamide (Dormex, 0.7%) was sprayed onto the plants, and irrigation (40 litres plant⁻¹ day⁻¹) was performed at 2-day intervals. Winter pruning time and irrigation affected not only the period of harvest but also fruit yield and total soluble solids (TSS). Fruit weight and pulp:stone ratio were only affected by pruning time. Pruning at the earliest date anticipated harvest time by 30-40 days. However, both fruit yield and plant growth were very poor after pruning. When compared with other pruning times, pruning on 7 June provided higher yields (15.2 kg/plant), fruit weight (77.8 g), pulp:stone ratio (16.4) and TSS (13.1 deg Brix).