



*Minia J. of Agric. Res. & Develop.*  
Vol. (32) No. 1 pp 149-164,  
2012

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

**EFFECT OF ENRICHING BORON AND MAGNESIUM WITH  
VITAMINS ON NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND PRODUCTIVITY  
OF RUBY SEEDLESS GRAPEVINES**

**Asmaa A. Ebrahiem\* and Basma R. Ahmed\*\***

\*Viticulture Dept., Hort. Res. Instit. ARC, Giza, Egypt

\*\*Plant Nutrition Res. Dept., Soil, Water and Environ. Res. Instit.  
ARC, Giza, Egypt

Received 12 Feb. 2012

Accepted 3 April 2012

**ABSTRACT**

The positive effects of enriched boron and magnesium with B- vitamins on vine nutritional status, yield and quality of Ruby seedless grapes were studied during 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Application of B, Mg and B- vitamins either singly or in combinations had an announced promotion on growth characters, vine nutritional status, yield, berry coloration and quality of the berries rather than non- application. A great decline on shot berries was noticed due to using these treatments. A supreme effect was detected when B- vitamins were accompanied with B and Mg. The best results with regard to yield and fruit quality of Ruby seedless grapevines were obtained with spraying B, Mg and B- vitamins together.

**INTRODUCTION**

Ruby seedless grapevine cv. as a late in maturity cv. is considered one of the popular seedless grape cv. grown successfully under Minia region. The vines bear an acceptable yield at the expense of fruit quality in addition to the occurrence of higher percentage of shot berries and the higher berry set percentage accompanied with producing small berries. All of them are considered serious problems

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facing the consumption and marketing of such grape cv. Application of vitamins along with boron and magnesium considered new approaches for amending the vines with their requirements from organic and inorganic nutrients at balanced rate.

Recently, it was suggested that all vitamins participate in plant growth and development. Most studies have indicated that various physiological processes such as nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, plant pigments and protein synthesis depend more or less on the availability of vitamins (Robinson, 1973 and Bertschinger and Stadler, 1997). Vitamins with their antioxidative properties play an important role in plant defence against oxidative stress induced by pesticides. The beneficial effects of vitamins were attributed to their positive action on enhancing cell division and various growth factors such as cytokinins and GA<sub>1</sub> (Oretili, 1987 and Samiullah *et al.*, 1988).

For more than two decades, study of the role of the vitamins in plants has attracted sporadic attention.

Application of boron was found by many authors to enhance cell division, biosynthesis and translocation of carbohydrates, metabolism of most minerals and pollen germination (Miller *et al.*, 1990). Many workers attributed the positive action of Mg on fruiting of fruit crops to its essential effect on the biosynthesis of plant pigments and carbohydrates as well as cell division and the formation of seeds (Cook, 1966).

Previous studies revealed by Abd El- Aziz (2001); Ahmed and Abd El- Hameed (2003); Ahmed *et al.*, (2004); Amin (2004); Abd El- Wahab (2005) and Ibrahiem- Asmaa (2006) supported the beneficial effects of using boron on growth and fruiting of fruit crops. The same trend was observed by Abd El- Aziz (2001); Abd El- Gaber- Nermean (2009); Abd El- Wahab (2005) and Ahmed *et al.*, (2006) who worked on the effect of Mg on fruit crops.

Application of vitamins was found by Numair- Safaa (2001); Ibrahiem- Asmaa (2006); Ahmed and Seleem- Basma (2008); Allam (2008); Farahat (2008); Abada and Abd El- Hameed (2009); Abd El- Kariem (2009) and Uwakiem (2006) to enhance productivity of different fruit crops.

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The main goals of this study were examining the effect of boron and magnesium especially when adjoined with vitamins B on fruiting of Ruby seedless grapevines.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out during the three successive seasons of 2009, 2010 and 2011 on seventy- two 16- years old Ruby seedless grapevines grown in a private vineyard located at West Matay district, Minia Governorate. Vines were spaced at 1.5 × 3.0 m and grown in sandy soil. Mechanical, physical and chemical analysis of the tested soil were carried out at three depths namely 0.0 – 30 cm, 30 – 60 cm and 60 – 90 cm. Four samples of the soil were taken at these depths for analysis according to the procedures that outlined by Piper (1960); Black (1960) and Chapman and Pratt (1960). Analysis of the tested soil is shown in Table (1).

**Table 1: Analysis of the tested soil:**

Characters	Values
Sand %	: 80
Silt %	: 10.0
Clay %	: 10.0
Texture	Sandy
pH (1:2.5 extract)	: 7.50
E.C. (1:2.5 extract) mmhos/1cm/25° C	: 1.01
O.M. %	: 0.22
CaCO <sub>3</sub> %	: 4.11
Total N %	: 0.02
Available P (ppm, Olsen method)	: 1.1
Available K (ppm, ammonium acetate)	: 30.0
Available Mg (ppm)	2.2

Shot pruning was adopted to give 10 fruiting spurs × three eyes plus six replacements spurs × two eyes (57 eyes per vine). Quadrilateral cordons system was followed. Drip irrigation system was applied.

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The present experiment consisted from the following eight treatments:-

- ١- Control (vines sprayed with water).
- ٢- Spraying boric acid at ٠.٠٥ %.
- ٣- Spraying magnesium sulphate at ٠.٥ %.
- ٤- Spraying B vitamins ( $B_1 + B_2 + B_3 + B_{12}$ ) at ١٠٠ ppm.
- ٥- Spraying boric acid at ٠.٠٥ % + magnesium sulphate at ٠.٥ %.
- ٦- Spraying boric acid at ٠.٠٥ % + B vitamins.
- ٧- Spraying magnesium sulphate at ٠.٥ % + B vitamins.
- ٨- Spraying boric acid at ٠.٠٥ % + magnesium sulphate at ٠.٥ % + B vitamins at ١٠٠ ppm.

Each treatment was replicated three times, three vines per each. The selected vines received the common horticultural practices that already applied in the vineyard except those dealing with the present treatments (Mg, B and B vitamin). Magnesium sulphate (٩.٦ % Mg), boric acid (١٧ % B) and B vitamins ( $B_1 + B_2 + B_3 + B_{12}$ ) were sprayed three times during each season at growth start (٣<sup>rd</sup> week of April), just after berry setting (٣<sup>rd</sup> week of June) and at one month later (٣<sup>rd</sup> week of July). The complete randomized block design was followed:

The following measurements were recorded during the three seasons.

- ١- Two growth traits namely main shoot length (cm) and leaf area ( $cm^2$ ) were recorded at the last week of July. Leaf area ( $cm^2$ ) was measured in the twenty leaves opposite to the basal clusters using Ahmed and Morsy (١٩٩٩) equation and then the average was calculated.
- ٢- For determining percentages of N, P, K and Mg, twenty leaves picked from those opposite to the basal clusters (Balo *et al.*, ١٩٨٨) for each vine were taken at the last week of July in the three seasons. Blades and petioles for leaves were separated when blades were discarded and petioles were saved for determining of N, P, K and Mg. Petioles were oven dried at ٧٠ °C and grounded then ٠.٥ g weight of each samples was digested using  $H_2SO_4$  and  $H_2O_2$  until clear solution was obtained (according to Chapman and Pratt, ١٩٦٥). The digested solutions were quantitatively transferred to

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100 ml volumetric flask and complete to 100 ml by distilled water. Therefore, leaf contents of N, P, K and Mg for each sample were determined as follows:-

- 1- Nitrogen % was determined by the modified microkjeldahl method as described by Peach and Tracey (1960).
- 2- Phosphorus % was determined by using Olsen method as reported by Wilde *et al.*, (1980).
- 3- Potassium % was Flame photometrically determined using the method outlined by Chapman and Pratt (1960).
- 4- Magnesium was determined by using versene method as reported by Black (1960).

When T.S.S/ acid exceeded 20: 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept.), the clusters were considered ready for harvest. Yield expressed in weight (kg.) and number of clusters per vine was recorded. Five clusters from each vine were taken for determination of the following physical and chemical characteristics:-

- 1- Cluster weight (g.).
- 2- Percentage of shot berries by dividing the number of small berries by the total number of berries and multiplying the product by 100.
- 3- Berry weight (g.).
- 4- Percentage of total soluble solids.)
- 5- Percentage of total acidity (as g tartaric acid/ 100 ml juice) (A.O.A.C., 1990).
- 6- T.S.S/ acid.
- 7- Dynamics of wood ripening coefficient was determined by dividing the length of ripened part (brownish colour) by the total length of the shoots (according to Bouard, 1966) in the ten shoots at the last week of Oct. in the three seasons.

Data recorded for the three seasons were subjected to analysis of variance according to Mead *et al.*, (1993) using new L.S.D at 0 %.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**١- Main shoot length and leaf area:**

It is clear from the obtained data in Table (٧) that single and combination applications of boron, Mg and B- vitamins significantly was accompanied with improving the main shoot length and leaf area comparing with the check treatment. Application of vitamins B, boron and magnesium, in ascending order significantly improved the main shoot length and leaf area. Combined applications of B, Mg and vitamins was superior than application of each alone. Enriched both Mg or B with B- vitamins was very essential for enhancing such two growth characters than using Mg and B alone.

**Table ٧: Effect of some boron, magnesium and some vitamin treatments on the main shoot length (cm.), leaf area (cm<sup>٢</sup>) and percentages of N and P in the leaves of Ruby seedless grapevines during ٢٠٠٩, ٢٠١٠ and ٢٠١١ seasons.**

Treatments	Main shoot length (cm.)			Leaf area (cm <sup>٢</sup> )		
	٢٠٠٩	٢٠١٠	٢٠١١	٢٠٠٩	٢٠١٠	٢٠١١
Control.	٩٩.١	١٠١.٠	١٠٢.٢	٧١.٠	٧١.٨	٧٢.٠
Boron.	١٠٤.٠	١٠٥.٠	١٠٦.٣	٧٣.٩	٧٤.٩	٧٥.١
Magnesium.	١٠٥.٩	١٠٦.٩	١٠٨.٢	٧٥.٩	٧٦.٨	٧٧.١
Vitamins B.	١٠٢.٢	١٠٢.٩	١٠٤.٣	٧٢.٤	٧٣.٣	٧٤.٠
B + Mg.	١٠٨.٠	١٠٩.٠	١١٠.٣	٧٧.٨	٧٨.٩	٧٩.٥
B + vitamins.	١٠٩.٦	١١١.٠	١١٢.٣	٧٩.١	٨٠.٣	٨٠.٦
Mg + vitamins.	١١٠.٦	١١٢.٥	١١٤.٠	٨٠.٣	٨١.٩	٨٣.٣
B + Mg + vitamins.	١١٣.٠	١١٥.١	١١٥.٩	٨٢.٤	٨٤.٠	٨٥.٧
New L.S.D at ٥ %	١.١	١.٢	١.١	١.٢	١.٠	١.٠
Character	N %			P %		
Control.	١.٦٤	١.٦٦	١.٧١	٠.١٦	٠.١٥	٠.١٧
Boron.	١.٧٨	١.٧٩	١.٨٥	٠.٢٤	٠.٢٥	٠.٢٣
Magnesium.	١.٨٦	١.٨٥	١.٩٠	٠.٢٨	٠.٣٠	٠.٢٦
Vitamins B.	١.٧١	١.٧١	١.٧٧	٠.٢٠	٠.٢٠	٠.٢٠
B + Mg.	١.٩٢	١.٩٠	١.٩٠	٠.٣٢	٠.٣٥	٠.٣١
B + vitamins.	١.٩٨	١.٩٧	١.٩٩	٠.٣٥	٠.٣٩	٠.٤٠
Mg + vitamins.	٢.٠٧	٢.٠٢	٢.٠٣	٠.٣٨	٠.٤٤	٠.٤٣
B + Mg + vitamins.	٢.١٣	٢.١٥	٢.١٨	٠.٤٢	٠.٤٩	٠.٥٠
New L.S.D at ٥ %	٠.٠٥	٠.٠٤	٠.٠٥	٠.٠٣	٠.٠٤	٠.٠٣

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The maximum values were recorded on the vines that received three sprays of B, Mg and B vitamins together. Significant differences on such two growth characters were observed among treated and untreated vines. Untreated vines produced the minimum values. Similar results were announced during the three seasons.

The essential role of B, Mg and B vitamins on enhancing cell division and the biosynthesis of organic foods could result in enhancing growth characters (Oertili, ١٩٨٧ and Miller *et al.*, ١٩٩٠).

These results are in harmony with those obtained by Abd El-Wahab (٢٠١٠) who worked on B; Ahmed *et al.*, (٢٠١١) who worked on Mg and Uwakiem (٢٠١١) who worked on B vitamins.

### **٢- Percentages of N, P, K and Mg:**

Data in Table (٢) clearly show that the four major nutrients namely N, P, K and Mg in the leaves were significantly increased by using B, Mg and B- vitamins either singly or in all combinations rather than non- application. The promotion was associated with using B- vitamins, B and Mg, in ascending order. Combined applications of B, Mg and B- vitamins were superior than using each nutrient alone in improving these nutrients. Varying these treatments caused significant differences on these nutrients. Spraying the vines three times with B, Mg and B- vitamins together gave the maximum values. The minimum values were recorded on untreated vines. Similar results were detected during the three seasons.

The beneficial effect of B, Mg and B- vitamins on stimulating root development surely reflected in enhancing uptake of nutrients.

These results are in harmony with those obtained by Abd El-Wahab (٢٠١٠) who worked on B; Ahmed *et al.*, (٢٠١١) who worked on Mg and Uwakiem (٢٠١١) who worked on B vitamins.

### **٣- Yield and cluster weight:**

Data in Tables (٣ & ٤) clearly show that single and combined applications of B, Mg and B- vitamins significantly was accompanied with improving yield expressed in weight and number of clusters as well as cluster weight comparing with the control treatment. Using B- vitamins, B and Mg, in ascending order was significantly very effective in promoting the yield and cluster weight. Number of

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clusters did not alter significantly due to B, Mg and vitamins application in the first season of study.

**Table 3: Effect of some boron, magnesium and some vitamin treatments on the percentages of K and Mg, yield/ vine (kg.) and number of clusters per vine of Ruby seedless grapevines during 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.**

Treatments	K %			Mg %		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
<b>Control.</b>	1.71	1.80	1.79	0.22	0.19	0.20
<b>Boron.</b>	1.84	1.93	1.91	0.29	0.30	0.33
<b>Magnesium.</b>	1.92	2.00	1.99	0.34	0.30	0.37
<b>Vitamins B.</b>	1.77	1.86	1.86	0.20	0.26	0.29
<b>B + Mg.</b>	1.99	2.08	2.10	0.37	0.38	0.42
<b>B + vitamins.</b>	2.07	2.16	2.17	0.42	0.43	0.50
<b>Mg + vitamins.</b>	2.10	2.22	2.24	0.47	0.48	0.50
<b>B + Mg + vitamins.</b>	2.22	2.30	2.32	0.50	0.56	0.59
<b>New L.S.D at 0 %</b>	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03
Character	Yield/ vine (kg.)			No. of clusters/ vine		
<b>Control.</b>	12.0	13.2	13.3	30.0	33.0	33.0
<b>Boron.</b>	13.2	16.3	16.8	31.0	38.0	39.0
<b>Magnesium.</b>	13.0	17.6	18.1	31.0	40.0	41.0
<b>Vitamins B.</b>	12.9	15.0	14.7	31.0	36.0	35.0
<b>B + Mg.</b>	14.3	18.9	19.1	32.0	42.0	42.0
<b>B + vitamins.</b>	14.7	20.3	20.0	32.0	44.0	40.0
<b>Mg + vitamins.</b>	15.1	21.8	21.9	32.0	46.0	46.0
<b>B + Mg + vitamins.</b>	15.4	23.3	23.0	32.0	48.0	46.0
<b>New L.S.D at 0 %</b>	0.9	1.3	1.2	N.S	1.8	2.0

Combined application was favourable than single one in this respect. Yield and cluster weight were significantly differed among treated and untreated vines. Treating the vines three times with a mixture of B, Mg and B- vitamins gave the best results with regard to yield. Under such promised treatment, yield reached 15.4 and 23.2 kg per vine compared with 12.0 and 13.2 kg produced by control vines



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during both seasons, respectively. Untreated vines produced the lowest yield. These results were true during the three seasons.

**Table 4: Effect of some boron, magnesium and some vitamin treatments on the cluster weight (g.), shot berries %, berry colouration % and berry weight (g.) of Ruby seedless grapevines during 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.**

Treatments	Cluster weight (g.)			Shot berries %		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Control.	400.0	401.0	402.0	10.0	14.8	14.0
Boron.	426.0	428.0	430.0	11.0	10.8	10.4
Magnesium.	437.0	440.0	442.0	9.0	8.8	8.0
Vitamins B.	410.0	417.0	419.0	13.0	12.8	12.0
B + Mg.	448.0	450.0	450.0	7.0	6.8	6.0
B + vitamins.	460.0	462.0	460.0	0.0	4.7	4.0
Mg + vitamins.	471.0	474.0	470.0	4.0	3.0	3.2
B + Mg + vitamins.	482.0	486.0	490.0	3.0	2.8	2.0
New L.S.D at 0 %	10.0	11.0	11.0	0.6	0.7	0.7
Character	Berry colouration %			Berry weight (g.)		
Control.	61.0	62.0	62.0	2.30	2.40	2.41
Boron.	67.0	68.3	69.0	2.47	2.40	2.44
Magnesium.	69.0	70.4	71.0	2.03	2.00	2.49
Vitamins B.	64.0	60.3	64.0	2.41	2.39	2.38
B + Mg.	71.9	73.3	74.0	2.71	2.69	2.67
B + vitamins.	74.0	70.3	76.0	2.80	2.78	2.77
Mg + vitamins.	77.0	78.4	79.0	2.86	2.80	2.80
B + Mg + vitamins.	89.9	91.0	91.0	2.91	2.92	2.93
New L.S.D at 0 %	1.9	2.0	2.0	0.00	0.07	0.07

The promoting effect of these nutrients and B- vitamins on growth and vine nutritional status surely reflected on enhancing the yield.

These results are in agreement with those obtained by Amin (2007) on B; Ahmed *et al.*, (2011) on Mg and Farahat (2008) on B vitamins.

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### ٤- Percentage of shot berries:

It was significantly declined with single and combined applications of B, Mg and B- vitamins rather than non- application. Percentage of shot berries was varied significantly with varying B, Mg and B- vitamin treatments. The reduction on shot berries % was associated with using B- vitamins, B and Mg, in ascending order. The minimum values were recorded on vines sprayed with all nutrients together. The maximum values were recorded on untreated vines. Similar trend was noticed during the three seasons.

The beneficial of B, Mg and B- vitamins in enhancing fertilization and pollen germination as well as their positive action on supplying the vines with their requirements from inorganic and organic nutrients at balanced rate surely reflected on reducing shot berries %.

These results are in accordance with those obtained by Amin (٢٠٠٧) and Ahmed *et al.*, (٢٠٠٧) on B; Abd El- Gaber- Nermean (٢٠٠٩) on Mg and Ibrahiem- Asmaa (٢٠٠٦) on B- vitamins.

### ٥- Percentage of berry colouration:

It is evident from the data in Table (٤) that supplying the vines with B, Mg and B- vitamins either singly or in combinations significantly enhanced berry colouration rather than non- application. The stimulation on colouration was attributed to using B- vitamins, B and Mg in ascending order. Great berry colouration was recorded on the vines that sprayed with B, Mg and B- vitamins together. Untreating the vines gave the lowest berry colouration. These results were true during the three seasons.

The beneficial effects of B, Mg and B- vitamins on the biosynthesis of sugars and plant pigments explain the present results.

### ٦- Physical and chemical characteristics of the berries:

It is clear from the data in Tables (٤& ٥) that single and combined applications of B, Mg and B- vitamins significantly was followed by enhancing berry weight, total soluble solids % and T.S.S/ acid and reducing total acidity % rather than non- application. Enriching B and/ or Mg with B- vitamins was superior than using each alone in enhancing quality of the berries.

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Table 9: Effect of some boron, magnesium and some vitamin treatments on some chemical characteristics in the berries of Ruby seedless grapevines during 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Treatments	Total soluble solids %			Total acidity %		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Control.	17.1	17.5	17.6	0.680	0.684	0.686
Boron.	17.7	18.0	18.0	0.650	0.653	0.646
Magnesium.	18.1	18.2	18.3	0.641	0.639	0.626
Vitamins B.	17.4	17.8	17.8	0.667	0.665	0.658
B + Mg.	18.3	18.5	18.6	0.629	0.627	0.620
B + vitamins.	18.6	18.8	18.9	0.617	0.615	0.607
Mg + vitamins.	19.1	19.0	19.2	0.605	0.602	0.594
B + Mg + vitamins.	19.4	19.5	19.6	0.591	0.587	0.581
New L.S.D at 5 %	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.011	0.012	0.011
Character	T.S.S/ acid			Wood ripening coefficient		
Control.	25.1	25.6	25.7	0.80	0.79	0.81
Boron.	27.0	27.6	27.9	0.88	0.84	0.87
Magnesium.	28.2	28.5	29.2	0.91	0.87	0.90
Vitamins B.	26.1	26.8	27.1	0.84	0.81	0.84
B + Mg.	29.1	29.5	30.0	0.92	0.89	0.93
B + vitamins.	30.1	30.6	31.1	0.95	0.91	0.96
Mg + vitamins.	31.6	31.6	32.3	0.97	0.94	0.98
B + Mg + vitamins.	32.8	33.2	33.7	0.98	0.96	0.98
New L.S.D at 5 %	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.03	0.02	0.03

The promotion was depended on using B- vitamins, B and Mg, in ascending order. The best results with regard to quality of the berries were obtained due to spraying the vines three times with B, Mg and B- vitamins together. These results were true during the three seasons.

The beneficial effects of B, Mg and B- vitamins on the biosynthesis of sugars and plant pigments explain the present results.

These results are in accordance with those obtained by Amin (2007) and Ahmed *et al.*, (2007) on B; Abd El- Gaber- Nermean (2009) on Mg and Ibrahiem- Asmaa (2006) on B- vitamins.

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**٧- Wood ripening coefficient:**

Table (٥) shows that single or combined application of B, Mg and B- vitamins significantly promoted wood ripening coefficient rather than non- application. The advancement in wood ripening coefficient was attributed to using B- vitamins, B and Mg in ascending order. Enriching B and Mg with B- vitamins effectively accelerated wood ripening. Wood ripening coefficient was maximized with spraying the vines three times with B, Mg and B- vitamins together. The lowest value was recorded on untreated vines. These results were true during the three seasons.

The beneficial effect of B, Mg and B- vitamins on the biosynthesis of organic and inorganic foods at higher levels could result in increasing wood ripening.

As a conclusion, treating Ruby seedless grapevines thrice with a mixture containing B, Mg and B- vitamins gave the best results with regard to yield and fruit quality. The essential of enriching nutrients with B- vitamins during nutrition of fruit crops was arised.

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## تأثير تزويد البورون والماغنيسيوم بالفيتامينات علي الحالة الغذائية وإنتاجية كرمات العنب الروبي سيدلس

أسماء أنور ابراهيم \* بسمة رشوان أحمد\*\*

\*قسم بحوث العنب - معهد بحوث البساتين - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزة - مصر.

\*\*قسم بحوث تغذية النبات - معهد بحوث الأراضي والمياه والبيئة - مركز البحوث

الزراعية - الجيزة - مصر.

تم دراسة التأثير الإيجابي لتزويد البورون والماغنيسيوم بفيتامينات ب علي الحالة الغذائية للكرمات وكمية المحصول وخصائص الجودة للحبات في كرمات العنب الروبي سيدلس وذلك خلال مواسم ٢٠٠٩، ٢٠١٠، ٢٠١١.

أدي الاستخدام الفردي والمشارك للبورون والماغنيسيوم وفيتامينات ب إلي تحسين صفات النمو والحالة الغذائية للكرمات وكمية المحصول ولون الحبات والجودة وذلك بالمقارنة بعدم الاستخدام وكان هناك نقص ملحوظ في النسبة المئوية للحبات الصغيرة عند استخدام هذه المعاملات.

وكان هناك تأثير كبير عند استخدام الفيتامينات جنباً الي جنب مع البورون والماغنيسيوم.

أمكن الحصول علي أفضل النتائج بخصوص كمية محصول الكرمة وخصائص الجودة للحبات في كرمات العنب الروبي سيدلس عند رش البورون والماغنيسيوم وفيتامينات ب معا.