OmyaPro® Calcium in cherries - Serbia - 2018

Aim

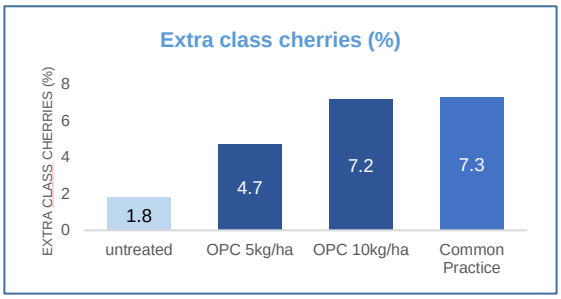
Determine the effect of foliar application of OmyaPro® Calcium on yield's quality.

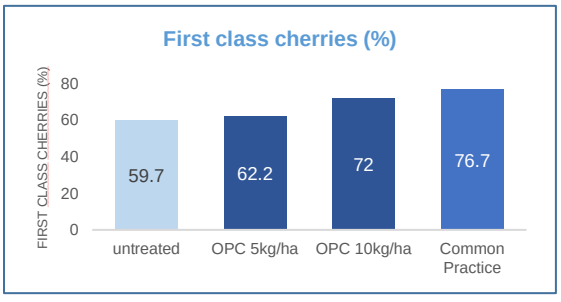
Method:	The specified amount of each product was mixed in water, stirred and applied immediately without adjuvant with a backpack applicator directly on the leaves.
Trial design:	open field trial, randomized block design
Crop description:	cherries, Early Lory variety

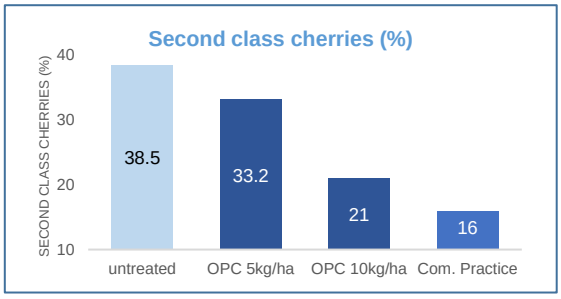
Protocol

Product	Ca (%)	Product Rate	Rate (kg Ca/ha)	Applications
Untreated	-	-	-	-
OmyaPro® Calcium	36 %	5 kg/ha	1.8	2 times (BBCH 72 and 75)
OmyaPro® Calcium	36 %	10 kg/ha	3.6	2 times (BBCH 72 and 75)
Common Practice ($CaCl_2$)	12 %	10 lt/ha	1.57	2 times (BBCH 72 and 75)

Results







OmyaPro® Calcium is an excellent source of calcium, a major element of the cell wall that contributes to the mechanical properties of the plant tissue. It is known that calcium decreases the permeability of the cell membranes and therefore increases the firmness of the fruit skin.

Skin integrity is an important factor for the classification of the harvested fruits before delivering them to the market. Cherries free from defects or with very slight defects can be classified as 'extra' or 'first' class fruits, respectively.

The yield among the treatments didn't differ significantly; it varied between 14 and 14.5 tonnes/ha. However, from our field data it is clearly shown the additive effect of calcium on fruit quality. Increasing the application rate of OmyaPro® Calcium**,** increased the percentage of cherries in the 'extra' class. The same observation was done for the 'first' class cherries. Applying 10 kg/ha of OmyaPro® Calcium, gave almost 20% more 'first' class yield compared to the untreated. Moreover, spraying our product that is free from chloride on sensitive crops, like cherries, the farmer has no risk of causing phytototoxicity to his trees. A better quality of the cherries directly relates to a higher price in the market.

Conclusions

OmyaPro® Calcium improves Calcium nutrition of the crops. As a pure source of calcium, it supplies to the crop sufficient amount of this essential element and improves the yield quality and subsequently the profitability of the crop.

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Source: Omya International AG – 2017/01