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WATERMELONS

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C & R Farms

Hemet, CA

Watermelon test on 22 acres

Start date 6/1/2020 – Harvest Date 8/20/2020

The test was conducted on a 22 acre field of watermelon. The fertilization was done weekly starting the 4th of June and continued for 5 weeks. The fertilization was done using AgriPower HGDF – A. The melons were feed through a drip system. This practice took place each week for 5 weeks. Two bags (2.5 lbs. each) were put into the drip system which fed the entire 22 acres each week. The recommended dosage was 14.5 lbs. instead of the 5 pounds used.

It should be noted that we decided to cut the amount of fertilizer recommend by Green Wave Products- the manufacturer of AgriPower) for melon by approximately 70%. The reason for this reduction was the concern that AgriPower is a very powerful foliar/soil fertilizer and we didn't want the melons to grow too quickly. Years of experience growing 800 acres of melons meant that each segment of melons that came due on a specific week starting around July 10th and weekly thereafter had to be a certain size/lb range, firmness and sugar content.

Starting in week 6 of the grow, AgriPower HGDF – B was introduced after flowering. The melons were fed through the use of a foliar piece of equipment called LectroBlast 2250 by Progressive Ag Inc. Again the fertilization was done weekly using this foliar device. The reduction from the recommended dosage was 76%. The reason was the same as that stated above. In this case 2 bags of B (2- 2 lb or 4 pounds) were applied with the water used to feed the 22 acres through the LectroBlast. This application rate was repeated for 3 weeks. On the fourth week we decided to increase the amount of AgriPower B to 3 bags or 6 pounds. This (3 bags) was repeated for the 5th week.

Harvesting took place on August 13th. The sizes were the standard size, firmness was good and the sugar was good.

We decided to do the next test increasing the amount of A fertilizer to 7.25 pounds of A for 22 acres each feeding and 7.25 pounds of B for the 22 acres for each feeding. That will represent a 20% reduction from AgriPower's recommended feeding amount.

Lastly, we added 200 lbs. per acres of a 15 15 15 (NPK) slow release pellet fertilizer prior to planting the melon seeds.