

YIELD AND FRUIT QUALITY RESULTS FROM CANOPY – CROP LOAD STUDY: APRICOT ‘GOLDEN MAY’

Table 3 presents production results (yield, fruit quality) for apricot ‘Golden May’ under crop load treatments (high, medium, low) for Vase and Tatura Trellis canopy systems for seasons 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, respectively at Tatura, Victoria, Australia.

Table 3. Production parameters in response to crop load treatments (Low, Medium, High) of ‘Golden May’ apricot under two canopy architectures (Tatura Trellis, Vase) during seasons 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 (season 1 – 5).

| Crop load | Fruit number (#/tree) | Fruit weight (g) | Yield (kg/tree) | Sweetness (°Brix) | Maturity (IAD) | Firmness (kgf) | Skin colour (% red) | Premium grade (%) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Season 1: Vase</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 21 a | 74 c | 1.5 a | 9.8 | 0.3 | 3.2 | 0 | 14 |
| Medium | 24 a | 70 b | 1.7 a | 9.7 | 0.3 | 3.3 | 0 | 17 |
| High | 43 b | 63 a | 2.6 b | 9.9 | 0.3 | 3.1 | 1 | 16 |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | * | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| <i>Season 1: Tatura Trellis</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 90 a | 73 c | 6.5 a | 9.6 b | 0.5 | 3.4 | 0 a | 10 |
| Medium | 113 a | 69 b | 7.7 a | 9.8 b | 0.5 | 3.5 | 0 a | 13 |
| High | 224 b | 55 a | 11.7 b | 9.4 a | 0.5 | 3.5 | 2 b | 11 |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | *** | *** | ns | ns | *** | ns |
| <i>Season 2: Vase</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 25 | 75 | 1.9 | 11.7 | 1.2 | 3.4 | 36 | 40 |
| Medium | 33 | 75 | 2.5 | 12.3 | 1.1 | 3.2 | 40 | 46 |
| High | 30 | 71 | 2.1 | 11.8 | 1.1 | 3.2 | 37 | 40 |
| ANOVA | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| <i>Season 2: Tatura Trellis</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 25 | 64 | 1.6 | 11.8 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 15 | 26 |
| Medium | 19 | 64 | 1.2 | 11.6 | 1.1 | 3.9 | 23 | 28 |
| High | 24 | 62 | 1.4 | 12.0 | 0.9 | 3.5 | 14 | 31 |
| ANOVA | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns | ns |
| <i>Season 3: Vase</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 30 a | 86 c | 2.5 a | 12.1 b | 1.1 | 4.0 | 16 a | 53 |
| Medium | 43 b | 81 b | 3.5 b | 12.2 b | 1.0 | 3.9 | 20 a | 36 |
| High | 73 c | 72 c | 5.2 c | 11.7 a | 1.3 | 3.9 | 26 b | 39 |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | *** | ** | ns | ns | *** | ns |
| <i>Season 3: Tatura Trellis</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 57 a | 79 b | 4.5 a | 13.7 b | 0.5 a | 2.4 a | 8 a | 90 b |
| Medium | 63 a | 76 b | 4.7 a | 13.6 b | 0.5 a | 2.5 a | 10 b | 87 b |
| High | 83 b | 68 a | 5.5 b | 13.1 a | 0.6 b | 2.7 b | 11 c | 80 a |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | ** | *** | *** | *** | *** | * |
| <i>Season 4: Vase</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 115 a | 63 c | 7.3 a | 12.4 c | 0.7 a | 3.2 a | 1 a | 60 c |
| Medium | 194 b | 51 b | 9.4 b | 11.6 b | 0.8 b | 3.5 b | 2 a | 34 b |
| High | 281 c | 36 a | 10.0 b | 10.5 a | 1.1 c | 4.2 c | 8 b | 6 a |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| <i>Season 4: Tatura Trellis</i> | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Low | 117 a | 52 c | 6.0 a | 12.9 c | 0.4 a | 2.7 a | 0 a | 68 c |
| Medium | 136 a | 50 b | 6.5 a | 12.5 b | 0.5 b | 2.9 b | 0 a | 53 b |
| High | 246 b | 32 a | 7.4 b | 10.8 a | 0.9 c | 3.8 c | 2 b | 8 a |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | ** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| <i>Season 5: Vase</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 54 a | 76 b | 4.1 a | 10.7 | 1.1 | 4.6 | 2 a | 15 |
| Medium | 108 b | 63 a | 5.6 b | 10.5 | 1.1 | 4.8 | 4 b | 14 |
| High | 116 b | 60 a | 6.7 b | 10.5 | 1.1 | 4.7 | 4 b | 13 |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | *** | ns | ns | ns | ** | ns |
| <i>Season 5: Tatura Trellis</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Low | 44 a | 79 c | 3.4 a | 11.7 b | 0.7 a | 3.5 a | 17 a | 38 b |
| Medium | 58 b | 72 b | 4.0 b | 11.5 b | 0.7 b | 3.7 b | 21 b | 31 b |
| High | 90 c | 58 a | 5.1 c | 10.7 a | 0.9 c | 4.1 c | 29 c | 13 a |
| ANOVA | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |

ns, *, ** and *** indicate non-significant or significant differences at $P < 0.05$, 0.01 or 0.001, respectively, for the two-way interaction crop load treatments.