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 6 consecutive seasons: 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, 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, 2020/21 and 2021/22 (season 1 – 6).

Crop load	Fruit number (#/tree)	Fruit weight (g)	Yield (kg/tree)	Sweetness (°Brix)	Maturity (I_{AD})	Firmness (kgf)	Skin colour (% red)	Premium grade (%)
Season 1: Vase								
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
Season 1: Tatura Trellis								
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
Season 2: Vase								
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
Season 2: Tatura Trellis								
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
Season 3: Vase								
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
Season 3: Tatura Trellis								
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	***	***	**	***	***	***	***	*
Season 4: Vase								
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	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Season 4: Tatura Trellis								

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	***	***	**	***	***	***	***	***
				Season 5: Vase				
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
				Season 5: Tatura Trellis				
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	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
				Season 6: Vase				
Low	18 a	96 b	1.7 a	10.8	1.0	3.5	51 a	25
Medium	30 b	81 a	2.4 b	10.8	1.0	3.3	56 b	19
High	30 b	77 a	2.3 b	10.5	1.1	3.4	57 b	17
ANOVA	**	***	***	ns	ns	ns	*	ns
				Season 6: Tatura Trellis				
Low	25	91 b	2.2 a	11.7	0.7	2.9	36 a	39 b
Medium	40	83 a	3.2 b	11.2	0.8	3.0	43 b	23 a
High	29	79 a	2.2 a	11.3	0.8	2.9	45 b	33 b
ANOVA	ns	***	*	ns	ns	ns	***	*

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.