

On-Going Research Testing the Efficacy of Using Urea to Increase Flowering, Fruit Set, and Yield in Avocado

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Abstract. The rationale for three areas of on-going research will be presented.

(1) We are testing the potential use of urea applied to the roots to increase flowering and, thus, fruit set and yield in avocado.

(2) In collaboration with Dr. Howard Ohr, Cooperative Extension Plant Pathologist, University of California, Riverside, and Dr. Guy Witney, Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Moreno Valley, CA, we are examining the efficacy of using urea and/or boron sprays on developing floral shoots to increase ovule longevity and pollen tube growth, respectively, to increase fruit set and yield of avocado.

(3) In collaboration with Bob Needham of Pacific Pest Control, Charles Hanson of Field Agricultural Chemical Technical Service, Inc., and Steve Purcell and Steve

Spangler of Unocal Corporation, we are quantifying the uptake of urea applied to avocado leaves at different stages of development.