

Current Research Objectives

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Research topic: Effect of growing media pH on HLB-affected trees

Primary Research Objective(s): To determine the effect of growing media pH on HLB-affected trees.

Research Goal: In this research we are investigating the effect of growing media pH on HLB-affected and healthy trees. Our efforts are aimed to understand interaction between HLB-affected trees and growing media pH.

Outcomes to date: We found that HLB-affected trees showed greatest growth in soil media constantly adjusted at pH 6. The leaf chlorophyll levels significantly increased in pH 6 adjusted growing media. A significant interaction was observed in HLB and growing media pH. In healthy trees, optimum growth was observed at growing media adjusted at pH 7. Based on our findings growers are recommend to keep soil pH below 7. Intensive management of irrigation water pH by acidification or soil-application of elemental sulfur can be beneficial for HLB-affected groves.

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