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## Effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on yield attributes and quality of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Gwalior 27

**Dinesh Singh Dhakar, AK Barholia, Rajesh Jatav and Narendra Vasure**

#### Abstract

An experiment was conducted during 2013 to find out the effect of phosphorus, zinc sulphate and their combined effect on yield and quality of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. G-27. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with thirteen number of treatments replicated thrice in well established 15 years old plant of guava. There were four levels of phosphorus i.e., 300 g, 400 g, 500 g and 600 g., three levels of spray of zinc sulphate i.e., 0.25%, 0.50% and 0.75%, while the control plants received no fertilizer and no spray. The study revealed that 600 g phosphorus per plant, spray of 0.75% zinc sulphate ( $P_4 \times Zn_3$ ), followed by  $P_3 \times Zn_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  500 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %) were found to be the best treatments for almost all yield and quality parameters of guava plant, for getting maximum yield with quality fruits in northern Madhya Pradesh.

**Keywords:** Guava, Phosphorus, Zinc sulphate, Yield, Quality.

#### 1. Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.), the apple of the tropics, which belongs to the family Myrtaceae, is an evergreen tree is one of the major fruit crops of India and is extensively grown in wide area of tropical, sub-tropical and some parts of arid regions of India because of its low cost of cultivation, more tolerant to drought and semiarid conditions as well as salinity problems. It has wide adaptability to varying soil and climatic conditions. It is a cheap and very rich source of vitamin-C, carbohydrate, iron, fat and contains a fair amount of calcium and phosphorus. Guava fruits are also used for preparation of salad, chutney, jam, jelly, nectar etc. These qualities make guava an important and one of the most popular fruits of India. India is the leading producer of guava in the world.

Gwalior is an important region in Madhya Pradesh, where guava is widely grown and several guava orchards are found in and around the Gwalior district. However, yield and quality of the guava tree is influenced by a large number of factors. One of the important factors is inadequate supply of plant nutrients. Nutrient requirement of guava vary with varieties and agroclimatic conditions. It gives good response to manuring and fertilization. Out of various major nutrients, phosphorus plays extremely important role in guava cultivation for optimum yield and performance. Uses of micronutrients also play an important role to avoid hidden nutrient hunger. Zinc is one of the important micronutrients required for flowering, fruiting, yield and quality of fruits. Gwalior-27 is a popular variety in northern Madhya Pradesh but nutritional requirement of this variety has not been standardized so far.

#### Material and Methods

The experiment was conducted at orchard of Department of horticulture, College of Agriculture, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gwalior during the year 2013-14. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design with thirteen treatments including control replicated three times. The phosphorus was applied as basal dose prior to start of flowering in end of June, while single foliar spray of zinc sulphate was done after fruitset. The details of treatments are  $T_0$  (Control),  $T_1$  (Phosphorus @ 300 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.25 %),  $T_2$  (Phosphorus @ 300 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.50 %),  $T_3$  (Phosphorus @ 300 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.75 %),  $T_4$  (Phosphorus @ 400 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.25 %),  $T_5$  (Phosphorus @ 400 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.50 %),  $T_6$  (Phosphorus @ 400 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.75 %),  $T_7$  (Phosphorus @ 500 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.25 %),  $T_8$  (Phosphorus @ 500 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.50 %),  $T_9$  (Phosphorus @ 500 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.75 %) and  $T_{10}$  (Phosphorus @ 600 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.25 %),  $T_{11}$  (Phosphorus @ 600 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.50 %),  $T_{12}$  (Phosphorus @ 600 g + Zinc sulphate @ 0.75 %). The various observations recorded during

the investigation were number of fruits per plant, weight of fruit (g), yield of fruit per plant (kg), yield per hectare (q), total soluble solid (<sup>0</sup>Brix), titrable acidity (%) and ascorbic acid (mg/100g).

### Result and Discussion

The data pertaining to various yield and quality parameters of the guava plant viz. number of fruits per plant, weight of fruit (g), yield of fruit per plant (kg), yield per hectare (q), total soluble solid (<sup>0</sup>Brix), titrable acidity (%) and ascorbic acid (mg/100g) are given in [Table 1 and 2].

#### Yield attributing characters

##### Number of fruits per plant

The data presented in table 1, revealed that the number of fruits per plant was significantly affected by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum number of fruits per plant (205.11) was recorded under P<sub>4</sub> P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant, which was at par with the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 500 g/ plant (204), while the minimum number of fruits per plant (194.66) was recorded under the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant respectively. The number of fruits per plant was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum number of fruits per plant (208.33) was recorded under Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was significantly superior to the other levels of ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, respectively, while the minimum number of fruits per plant (189.00) was recorded under the treatment ZnSo<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on number of fruits per plant was significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum number of fruits per plant (211.00) was recorded under treatment combinations P<sub>4</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), while the minimum number of fruits per plant (176.67) under the treatment combination P<sub>1</sub> x Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %) respectively.

##### Weight of fruit (g)

Data on fruit weight (g) presented in table 1 revealed that the weight of fruit was significantly increased by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum weight of fruit (198.46 g) was recorded under P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant, the treatment P<sub>3</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> was also showed good result (195.60 and 192.81 g), while the minimum weight of fruit (188.13 g) was recorded under the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant respectively. The weight of fruit was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum weight of fruit (209.06 g) was recorded under Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was significantly superior to the other levels of ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, while the minimum weight of fruit (177.31 g) was recorded under the treatment ZnSo<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %. The interaction effect of soil application of phosphorus and foliar application zinc sulphate on weight of fruit was significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum weight of fruit (211.66 g) was recorded under treatment combinations P<sub>4</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was at par with the treatment P<sub>3</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 500 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) and P<sub>2</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 400 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), (209.70 And 209.32 g, respectively), while the minimum weight of fruit (168.12 g) was recorded under the treatment combination P<sub>1</sub> x Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %).

##### Yield of fruit per plant (kg)

Fruit yield (kg) per plant data presented in table 1, shows that the yield of fruits per plant was significantly increased by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum yield of fruits per plant (40.77 kg) was recorded under P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant which was at par with the treatment P<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 500 g/ plant) (39.97 kg), while the minimum yield of fruits per plant (36.81 kg) was recorded under the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant, respectively. The yield of fruits per plant was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other level treatment. The mean maximum yield of fruits per plant (43.56 kg) was recorded under Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was significantly superior to the other levels of ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, respectively. The treatment Zn<sub>2</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50 %) was showed better result (39.74 kg), while the minimum yield of fruits per plant (33.57 kg) was recorded under the treatment ZnSo<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on yield of fruits per plant was significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum yield of fruits per plant (44.69 kg) was recorded under treatment combinations P<sub>4</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was at par with the treatment combinations P<sub>3</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 500 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) and P<sub>2</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 400 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) (44.04 and 43.33 kg, respectively), while the minimum yield of fruits per plant (29.70 kg) was obtained under the treatment combination P<sub>1</sub> x Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %), respectively.

##### Yield per hectare (q)

Data shown in table 1, the yield per hectare was significantly influenced by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum yield per hectare (113.33 q) was recorded under P<sub>4</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant). The treatment P<sub>3</sub> also showed better result (111.10 q), while the minimum yield per hectare (102.32 q) was recorded under the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant, respectively. The yield per hectare was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other treatments. The mean maximum yield per hectare (121.09 q) was recorded under Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was significantly superior to the other levels of ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, while the minimum yield per hectare (93.31 q) was recorded under the treatment ZnSo<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on yield per hectare was significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum yield per hectare (124.25 q) was recorded under treatment combinations P<sub>4</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), which was at par with the treatment combination P<sub>3</sub> x Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 500 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) 122.42 q respectively, while the minimum yield per hectare (82.57 q) under the treatment combination P<sub>1</sub> x Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> @ 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %).

#### Quality parameters

##### Total soluble solid (<sup>0</sup>Brix)

Data presented in table 1, revealed that the TSS was not significantly affected by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum TSS (10.74 <sup>0</sup>Brix) was recorded under P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant, while the minimum TSS (9.61 <sup>0</sup>Brix) was recorded under the treatment P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant respectively. The TSS was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other treatment. The mean maximum TSS (10.54 <sup>0</sup>Brix) was

recorded under  $Zn_3$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %), which was significantly superior to the other levels of  $ZnSO_4$  respectively, while the minimum TSS (9.65 °Brix) was recorded under the treatment  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on TSS was not significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum TSS (11.11 °Brix) was recorded under treatment combinations  $P_4 \times Zn_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 600 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %), while the minimum TSS (8.50 °Brix) under the treatment combination  $P_1 \times Zn_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 300 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %), respectively.

#### Titration acidity (%)

The titration acidity (table 1) was not significantly affected by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatment. The mean maximum titration acidity (0.69 %) was recorded under  $P_2O_5$  400 g/ plant and  $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant while the minimum titration acidity (0.68 %) was recorded under the treatment  $P_2O_5$  600 g/ plant and  $P_2O_5$  500 g/ plant, respectively. The titration acidity was not significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other treatment. The mean maximum titration acidity (0.69 %) was recorded under  $Zn_2$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.50 %) and  $Zn_1$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %), while the minimum titration acidity (0.68 %) was recorded under the treatment  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %, respectively. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on titration acidity was not significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The minimum titration acidity (0.67 %) was recorded under treatment combinations  $P_1 \times Zn_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 300 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %),  $P_4 \times Zn_2$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 600 gm/plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.50 %) and  $P_4 \times Zn_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 600 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %), while the maximum titration acidity (0.71 %) under the treatment combination  $P_1 \times Zn_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 300 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %), respectively.

#### Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)

Data on ascorbic acid (mg/100g) (table 1), presented that the ascorbic acid was not significantly increased by the application of phosphorus over the other level of treatments. The mean maximum ascorbic acid (152.60 mg/100 g) was recorded under  $P_2O_5$  600 g / plant, while the minimum ascorbic acid (148.61 mg/100 g) was recorded under the treatment  $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant respectively. The ascorbic acid content was significantly affected due to the spray of zinc sulphate over the other treatments. The mean maximum ascorbic acid (156.85 mg/100 g) was recorded under  $Zn_3$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %), while the minimum ascorbic acid (145.21 mg/100 g) was recorded under the treatment  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 % respectively. The interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on ascorbic acid was not significantly influenced by the different combinations. (Table 2). The maximum ascorbic acid acidity (158.54 mg/100 g) was recorded under treatment combinations  $P_4 \times Zn_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 600 g/ plant) while the minimum ascorbic acid (144.54 mg/100 g) under the treatment combination  $P_1 \times Zn_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  @ 300 g/ plant &  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %), respectively.

### Discussion

#### Effect of Phosphorus

##### Yield attributing parameters

The data pertaining various yield attributing parameters of the guava plant viz; number of fruits per plant, weight per fruit, yield of fruits per plant (kg) and yield per hectare were significantly improved by the soil application of phosphorus.

The maximum number of fruits per plant (205.11), weight per fruit (198.46 g), yield per plant (40.77 kg) and yield per hectare (113.33 q) were recorded under the treatment  $P_4$  ( $P_2O_5$  600 g/ plant), which were significantly superior to other levels of  $P_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  500 g/ plant),  $P_2$  ( $P_2O_5$  400 g/ plant),  $P_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant), while, the minimum number of fruits per plant (194.66), weight per fruit (188.13 g), yield per plant (36.81 kg) and yield per hectare (102.32 q) noted under  $P_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant). These findings are in agreement with those reported by Chaplin and Westood, (1980) [5].

#### Quality characters

The chemical parameters of guava fruits were not significantly influenced by the soil application of phosphorus. The maximum TSS (10.54 °Brix), was recorded under  $P_4$  ( $P_2O_5$  600 g/ plant) and minimum  $P_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant), titration acidity (0.69 %) were recorded under the treatment  $P_2$  ( $P_2O_5$  400 g/ plant) and  $P_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant) and ascorbic acid content (152.60 mg/ 100 g), whereas, minimum TSS (9.61 °Brix) was recorded under  $P_1$  ( $P_2O_5$  300 g/ plant). The minimum titration acidity (0.68 %) were recorded under the treatment  $P_3$  ( $P_2O_5$  500 g/ plant) and  $P_4$  ( $P_2O_5$  600 g/ plant). These findings are in agreement with those reported by Shuman, (1998) [15] and Van den Driessche, (2002) [18].

#### Effect of zinc sulphate

##### Yield attributing parameters

The data pertaining to various yield attributing parameters of the guava plant viz; fruit length, fruit width, number of fruits per plant, weight of fruit, yield of fruit per plant and yield per hectare were significantly increased by the various sprays of zinc sulphate. The increased fruit length (6.90 cm), fruit width (6.89 cm) and maximum number of fruits per plant (208.33), weight of fruit (209.06 g), yield per plant (43.56 kg) and yield per hectare (121.09 q) were recorded under the treatment  $Zn_3$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.75 %), which were significantly superior to the other levels of Zn ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %,  $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.50%) whereas, the minimum number of fruits per plant (189.00), weight of fruit (177.31 g), yield per plant (33.57 kg) and yield per hectare (93.31q) were recorded under  $Zn_1$  ( $ZnSO_4$  @ 0.25 %). The increase in fruit yield due to the increased growth and yield parameters may be due to the increased auxin production. Zinc acts as catalyst in the oxidation and reduction processes and is also of great importance in the sugar metabolism which might have improved the physical characters of guava fruit and thus increased the yield per tree. Heavier fruits under zinc treatment might be due to the high level of auxin in the various parts of the fruit maintained by zinc application. The role of Zn in production of auxins is well known. The increase in the fruit weight by zinc spray was due to the significant increase in the fruit width and length. The increase in the yield under the effect of zinc sprays might be due to the fact that zinc is universally claimed to be an essential micro nutrient and it is considered indispensable for the growth of all organisms (Arora & Singh, 1970 b) [1]. Mansour and Sied (1981) [9] reported that foliar spray of zinc at 0.5 and 1.0 per cent concentrations increased fruit set, reduced pre-harvest abscission and increased yield; at picking time fruit characters were good. Effect of zinc spray on yield have earlier been also reported by Mansour and Sied (1981) [9], Pandey *et al.* (1988) [11], Sharma *et al.* (1991) [14], Dahiya *et al.* (1993) [6], Kundu and Mitra (1999) [8], Balakrishnan (2000) [2], Balakrishnan (2001) [3], Bhatia *et al.* (2001) [4], Meena *et al.* (2005) [10] and Tiwari and Shant (2010) [17] in guava.

### Quality characters

The quality parameters of guava fruits were significantly improved by the spray of zinc sulphate. The maximum TSS (10.74 °Brix) was recorded under treatment Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75%), which were significantly superior to the other levels of Zn (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25%, ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50%), while minimum TSS (9.65 °Brix). The maximum titrable acidity (0.69 %) was recorded under the treatments Zn (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25% & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50%), while the minimum was recorded under the treatment Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75%). The maximum ascorbic acid mg/ 100 g (156.85 g) was recorded under the treatments Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %), while the minimum was recorded under the treatment Zn<sub>1</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25%). The enhanced physical growth parameters of guava fruits may be due to the fact that Zn acts as catalyst in the oxidation and reduction process and is also of great importance in sugar metabolism. The acid under the influence of zinc might have either been fastly converted into sugars and their derivatives by the reactions, involving the reversal of glycolytic pathway or be used in respiration or both. Decrease in acidity due to zinc spray is in agreement with the observations of Rajput and Chand (1976)<sup>[13]</sup>. Singh and Chhonkar (1983)<sup>[16]</sup> recorded significant increase in total soluble solids, reducing sugar and ascorbic acid content in 'Mrig-bahar' guava pulp with foliar spray of 0.4 per cent zinc sulphate solution over control. Increase in sugar by zinc might be due to the active enzymatic reaction like transformation of carbohydrates, activity of hexokinase and formation of cellulose. This present investigation finds support from Pandey *et al.* (1988)<sup>[11]</sup> and Prasad *et al.* (2005)<sup>[12]</sup> in guava.

### Interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate

#### Yield attributing Parameters

The combined application of phosphorus and zinc sulphate

showed great improvement in yield attributing characters of guava. The maximum number of fruit (211.66) was obtained under P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) and minimum number of fruit (176.67) obtained with P<sub>1</sub> X Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %). The higher weight per fruit (211.15 g), yield per plant (44.69 kg) and yield per hectare (124.25 q) was noted under P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) whereas, the minimum weight per fruit (168.12 g), yield per plant (29.70 kg) and yield per hectare (82.57 q) noticed under P<sub>1</sub> X Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %).

#### Quality characters

The chemical parameters of guava fruits were not significantly improved by the combined application of phosphorus and zinc sulphate over the lower concentrations. The maximum TSS (11.11 °Brix) was found in treatment combination P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) and minimum (8.50 °Brix) was found in P<sub>1</sub> X Zn<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.25 %). The maximum titrable acidity (0.70) was found in treatment P<sub>1</sub> X Zn<sub>2</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 300 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50 %) and P<sub>2</sub> X Zn<sub>2</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 400 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50 %) whereas the minimum (0.67 %) was in P<sub>1</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub>, P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub>. The increase in T.S.S. under the influence of micronutrients might be due to hydrolysis of complex polysaccharides into simple sugars, synthesis of metabolites and rapid translocation of photosynthetic products and minerals from other parts of plant to developing fruits. Several workers observed similar results as, Ghosh (1986)<sup>[7]</sup>, Balakrishnan (2000)<sup>[2]</sup> and Balakrishnan (2001)<sup>[3]</sup> in guava.

**Table 1:** Effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on yield and quality parameters of guava.

Treatments	Number of fruits per plant)	Weight of fruit (g)	Yield of fruit per plant (kg)	Yield per hectare (q)	Total soluble solid (°Brix)	Titrable acidity (%)	Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)
Phosphorus							
P <sub>1</sub> 300g/plant	194.66	188.13	36.81	102.32	9.61	0.69	148.61
P <sub>2</sub> 400g/plant	197.88	192.81	38.28	106.43	10.15	0.69	150.37
P <sub>3</sub> 500g/plant	204.00	195.60	39.97	111.10	10.45	0.68	152.16
P <sub>4</sub> 600g/plant	205.11	198.46	40.77	113.33	10.54	0.68	152.60
S.Em.±	0.420	0.666	0.157	0.437	0.310	0.012	2.096
C.D. at 5%	1.22	1.937	0.457	1.270	NS	NS	NS
ZnSO <sub>4</sub>							
Z <sub>1</sub> 0.25%/ plant	189.00	177.31	33.57	93.31	9.65	0.69	145.21
Z <sub>2</sub> 0.50% plant	203.91	194.88	39.74	110.49	10.17	0.69	150.76
Z <sub>3</sub> 0.75% plant	208.33	209.06	43.56	121.09	10.74	0.68	156.85
S.Em.±	0.363	0.577	0.136	0.378	0.268	0.010	1.815
C.D. at 5%	1.058	1.678	0.396	1.099	0.771	NS	5.277

**Table 2:** Interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate on yield and quality parameters of guava.

Treatments	Number of fruits per plant)	Weight of fruit (g)	Yield of fruit per plant (kg)	Yield per hectare (q)	Total soluble solid (°Brix)	Titrable acidity (%)	Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)
<b>Interaction (PXZ)</b>							
T <sub>(1)</sub> P <sub>1</sub> Z <sub>1</sub>	176.67	168.12	29.70	82.57	8.50	0.71	144.54
T <sub>(2)</sub> P <sub>1</sub> Z <sub>2</sub>	202.66	190.20	38.55	107.16	9.92	0.70	146.64
T <sub>(3)</sub> P <sub>1</sub> Z <sub>3</sub>	204.66	206.06	42.17	117.25	10.42	0.67	154.66
T <sub>(4)</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Z <sub>1</sub>	185	175.00	32.37	90.00	9.91	0.69	144.81
T <sub>(5)</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Z <sub>2</sub>	201.66	194.12	39.15	108.83	10.11	0.70	149.64
T <sub>(6)</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Z <sub>3</sub>	207.00	209.32	43.33	120.45	10.43	0.68	156.66
T <sub>(7)</sub> P <sub>3</sub> Z <sub>1</sub>	196	182.03	35.68	99.18	10.08	0.68	145.22
T <sub>(8)</sub> P <sub>3</sub> Z <sub>2</sub>	206.00	195.07	40.18	111.71	10.27	0.68	153.73

T <sub>(9)</sub>	P <sub>3</sub> Z <sub>3</sub>	210	209.70	44.04	122.42	11.01	0.69	157.54
T <sub>(10)</sub>	P <sub>4</sub> Z <sub>1</sub>	198.33	184.08	36.51	101.50	10.12	0.69	146.26
T <sub>(11)</sub>	P <sub>4</sub> Z <sub>2</sub>	205.33	200.16	41.10	114.26	10.38	0.67	153.02
T <sub>(12)</sub>	P <sub>4</sub> Z <sub>3</sub>	211.66	211.15	44.69	124.25	11.11	0.67	158.54
S.Em.±		0.727	1.154	0.272	0.757	0.536	0.021	3.631
C.D. at 5%		2.116	3.356	0.791	2.201	NS	NS	NS

### Conclusion

It is concluded that soil application of phosphorus and foliar spray of zinc sulphate and their interaction had significantly improved the Yield and chemical parameters of guava. Individual spray of phosphorus i.e. P<sub>4</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant) followed by P<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 500 g/ plant), and individual spray of zinc sulphate i.e. Zn<sub>3</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) followed by Zn<sub>2</sub> (ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.50 %) were found to be the best treatments for almost yield and quality parameters of guava plant. In the interaction effect of phosphorus and zinc sulphate, the treatment P<sub>4</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 600 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) followed by P<sub>3</sub> X Zn<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> 500 g/ plant & ZnSO<sub>4</sub> @ 0.75 %) were found to be the best treatments for almost yield and quality parameters of guava plant.

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