

B

Yields of pistachio increased with boron application

- Recent research results in California have shown that foliar applications of *Solubor*[®] have increased pistachio yields.
- The best time for foliar application is from the late dormant to the early bud stages.
- Soil applications of boron are not as effective as foliar applications in supplying sufficient boron for flowering.

Brown, Ferguson, and Picchioni worked with 1,000 pistachio trees in California over a 4-year period to investigate the role of boron (B) nutrition and review current B recommendations. Cumulative 3-year yields of pistachio per tree from foliar and soil-applied B are given in the table shown here. Their results show greater yields were definitely obtained with foliar application of *Solubor*[®]. The best application rate shown in this research was 5 pounds of *Solubor*[®] in 100 gallons of water. The best time to use a foliar application was from the late dormant to early bud stages of development.

Soil-applied B at 2 to 8 ounces per tree affected yields sometimes. Soil-applied B results were not as consistent, nor as dependable as a foliar application.

Pistachio yield was only one measurement that Brown, Ferguson and Picchioni made on trees. They documented several influences of foliar-applied B at the critical late dormant to early bud stages. Boron increased pollen viability, fruit set, and leaf B concentrations, but decreased blanking percentage. All of these measurements lend support to applying 5 pounds of *Solubor*[®]/100 gallons of water per tree at the right time.

Three-year cumulative yields of pistachio from boron applications			
Foliar Application, lbs. Solubor/100 gal. water	Pistachio Yield, lbs. per tree	Soil Application oz./tree	Pistachio Yield, lbs. per tree
0	100	2	100
2	107	4	101
5	122	6	99
10	106	8	105

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