



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_38522
Title of the Manuscript:	Effect of chemical thinning season using Metamitron on peaches 'Sensação' quality
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	In this paper, the author(s) investigated the optimal timing for using Metamitron for their peach trees from the viewpoint of fruit quality produced. I believe this study fundamentally provides fruitful information for the farmers. However, the manuscript includes several problems that should be revised. In my opinion, results should be described first, then authors should describe the reason of the results for experimental studies to avoid unreasonable discussion even though they adopt "Results and Discussion" section. L.84, the author started to describe based on their belief, "Metamitron must change the epidermis colour". They described the reason of no-significant difference in 2016 because "crop also changes the colour", i.e., Metamitron must change the epidermis colour in 2016 but the crop eliminated the effect. However, they should discuss "Whether Metamitron changes the epidermis colour" based on their results. The experiment was executed in a commercial orchard, and didn't the farmer cropped in 2014? From L.107 as well. Why "it was not possible to establish a direct relation between chemical thinning seasons" yields "depending on the crop, the physiological response found was altered"? "Metamitron does not have significant effects for the firmness like apple" may be a candidate conclusion. So Results and Discussion and Conclusion sections should be revised thoroughly. All tables should be reformed to figures with S.D. bars. Units for all properties should be provided. Conclusion: According to all the tables, properties of 20 DAFB fruits were much closer with those of manual thinning (all indices have no significant difference) than 30 or 60 DAFB.	L.84 - The text has been modified. The paragraph has been changed to: "Probably the metamitron application in a more advanced stage of fruits development caused a photosynthetic change in the fruits, that is, the metamitron acted in the electron transport chain, blocking the triplet chlorophyll synthesis that reacts with oxygen, forming singlet oxygen and reactive oxygen species, and consequently promoted pigments destruction." L.107 – The text has been modified. The paragraph has been changed to: "Thus, although pulp firmness is important for 'Sensação' cultivar, which has potential for in natura consumption and for industry, it was not possible to establish a direct relation between chemical thinning seasons. Because there were differences between evaluated crops. Therefore, depending on the crop, the firmness pulp response was altered, in the year 2016 the metamitron did not change this variable and this same result was also observed in apple trees [20]." Some tables have been modified for graphics. Conclusion: 20 DAFB was added at the conclusion, as a treatment similar to manual thinning.
Minor REVISION comments	L64: Why the abbreviation of the "index of maturation" is DA? Is it the unit of the index? If so, in LL99-105, DA is used as the abbreviation of the index and should be revised. Additionally, according to "Handling and Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables by Combined Methods for Rural Areas" Chapter 2, the index based on the chlorophyll seems to be only one index of maturation, and the firmness and other indicators are also used as the indicator, naming the value (based on chlorophyll) as "maturation index" seems to be preferred to be avoided. L78: The author described the experimental design. A plot may include several plants; but the information of the size of each plot and the total experimental area are not described. The difference between the condition of the plots may be a factor of fruit quality, and the details of the plot and experimental area should be described with a figure. Table 1: What does "Epidermis color" indicate? Hue? L132 "Pavanello" should be inserted before [23].	The term was modified to Ripening index with the abbreviation RI. Ripening index (RI), its calculation was based on the difference of absorbance between two wavelengths near the chlorophyll-a absorption peak. Readings were standardized, two spots on both sides of the fruit were verified by a portable spectrophotometer DA meter® (Turony, Italy). The description of the delinquency was modified to improve the understanding. It has been modified to The experimental design involved randomized blocks, with each plot being composed of five plants. The plants at the ends of each plot were disregarded, amounting to nine useful plants. Epidermis color is expressed by ° Hue. For example, in the peach higher values of ° Hue indicate greenish coloring, and the lower the value, the redder the fruit. In Table 1 the units of each variable were added. Pavanello was increased.



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	L.150 Meitei or Meite?	Is Meitei. http://www.academicjournals.org/article/article1380894658_Meitei%2520et%2520al.pdf
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	I'm not a researcher of fruit trees and I reviewed this paper assuming the examination and measurement were executed correctly and the ranges of values in the tables and the amount of sprayed substances were reasonable.	