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**Sudhir Jamwal**  
Department of Horticulture Sam  
Higginbottom University of  
Agriculture Technology and  
Sciences, Allahabad, U.P, India

**Saket Mishra**  
Department of Horticulture Sam  
Higginbottom University of  
Agriculture Technology and  
Sciences, Allahabad, U.P, India

**Sandeep Singh**  
Department of Horticulture Sam  
Higginbottom University of  
Agriculture Technology and  
Sciences, Allahabad, U.P, India

## Effect of integrated nutrient management on physical characteristics of Guava under Meadow Orcharding CV. Allahabad Safeda

**Sudhir Jamwal, Saket Mishra and Sandeep Singh**

### Abstract

An experiment was carried out during 2016 in the central field of Department of Horticulture Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and sciences, Allahabad (U.P) on three years old guava plants under Meadow orcharding cv. Allahabad safeda. The results revealed that the application of Azotobacter + (100% Nitrogen through urea) T<sub>11</sub>, significantly influence the physical parameters of guava, Maximum increase in tree height (21.99%), canopy spread N-S direction (23.57%), and E-W (23.50%) were obtained with treatment T<sub>11</sub>. whereas maximum number of fruits/tree (21), Maximum average fruit weight (190.10gm), Maximum fruit length (7.10cm), Maximum fruit diameter (7.15 cm), Maximum fruit volume (192.13), Maximum fruit yield/tree (3.99Kg), Fruit yield/ha (199.58 q) has been obtained with treatment T<sub>14</sub> Azotobacter + (75% Nitrogen through urea + 25 % Vermicompost)

**Keywords:** Guava, Allahabad safeda, integrated nutrient management, Physical parameters

### Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava*) belongs to the family Myrtaceae, and native to tropical America is one of the most common and valuable fruit crop grown in tropical and subtropical regions of the country, due to its hardy nature the trees even grown in the marginal lands as its cultivation requires little care and inputs. Globally India, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Jamaica, Kenya, Cuba, United States of America, Egypt, Thailand, Columbia and Pakistan are the major producer of guava fruits. In India guava is the fifth important fruit crop after mango, citrus, banana and apple, major guava producing states are Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, covering a total area of 268 thousand hectares with total production of 3668 thousand tonnes and productivity of 13.07 t/ha, (National Horticulture board database 2014). Due to the hazardous effect of chemical fertilizers the need of the hour is to adopt an integrated approach to supply all the essential nutrients to the plants without harming the soil and environment, now a day's Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) gaining significance in the field of fruit production as INM maintains the soil health, minimize environmental pollution and cut down on the use of chemical fertilizers and provide most of the nutrients to the plants at low cost, ultimately benefiting most of the farmers who are small and marginal and cannot afford to buy expensive chemical fertilizers. Integrated nutrient management involves the combine use of various plant nutrient supply system, the use of organic manure along with bio-fertilizers and inorganic fertilizers as a cheap source of available nutrient to plants and has resulted in beneficial effects on growth, yield and quality of various fruit crops under normal spacing (Ram and Rajput, 2000).

The high density or meadow orcharding facilitates enhance production and quality of fruits. The Meadow Orchard is a modern method of fruit cultivation by adopting modified canopy system. Better light distribution within tree canopy increases the number of well illuminated leaves. It also promotes rate of photosynthesis that leads to high yield per unit area. This system of guava planting is going to revolutionize the guava industry by enhancing productivity coupled with reduction in production costs. The meadow orchard system of guava accommodates 5000 plants ha<sup>-1</sup>, planted at 2.0 x 1.0 m spacing. Keeping in view the above mentioned points the present investigation was conducted to find out the best combination of integrated nutrient management for sustainable production.

### Materials and Methods

The experiment has been carried out at the Central Research Farm, Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology & Science, Allahabad

**Correspondence**  
**Sudhir Jamwal**  
Department of Horticulture Sam  
Higginbottom University of  
Agriculture Technology and  
Sciences, Allahabad, U.P, India

(U.P.) -211007, during the year 2016 in winter season crop i.e Ambe Bahar. The soil of the experimental area is sandy loam in texture with soil reaction in almost neutral range (pH 7.2), organic carbon is 0.51%, nitrogen is available but phosphorus and potash are in medium to higher range. Average annual rainfall is 1100 mm precipitating mostly in between middle of July to end of September, January is the coldest month when mercury may drop down to an average minimum of 5<sup>o</sup> C on the other hand May to June are the hottest months recording average high temperature above 46<sup>o</sup> C. Uniform, healthy and disease free, 03 year old Guava plants (Allahabad Safeda) under meadow orcharding (2m x 1m) has been selected for the present investigations during 2016. The Experiment consisted of 20 treatment combinations applied to individual plant in three replications in Complete Randomized Design (CRD) which are as follows:

**T<sub>0</sub>** = Control

**T<sub>1</sub>** = 100% of Nitrogen/tree through Urea

**T<sub>2</sub>** = 100% N/tree through organic manure (33.3% FYM + 33.3% Vermicompost + 33.3% Poultry manure)

**T<sub>3</sub>** = 75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through FYM

**T<sub>4</sub>** = 75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through Vermicompost

**T<sub>5</sub>** = 75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through poultry manure

**T<sub>6</sub>** = 50% N/tree through urea + 25% FYM +25 % Vermicompost

**T<sub>7</sub>** = 50% N/tree through urea + 25% FYM +25% poultry

manure.

**T<sub>8</sub>** = 50% N/tree through urea + 25% poultry manure + 25 % Vermicompost

**T<sub>9</sub>** = 25% N/tree through urea+25% FYM +25% poultry manure+25 % Vermicompost

**T<sub>10</sub>** = 100% Nitrogen/tree through biofertilizer (Azotobactor)

**T<sub>11</sub>**=Azotobactor + T<sub>1</sub> (100% of Nitrogen/tree through Urea)

**T<sub>12</sub>**= Azotobactor + T<sub>2</sub> (100% N/tree through organic manure)

**T<sub>13</sub>** = Azotobactor + T<sub>3</sub> (75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree FYM)

**T<sub>14</sub>** = Azotobactor +T<sub>4</sub> (75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through Vermicompost)

**T<sub>15</sub>** = Azotobactor + T<sub>5</sub> (75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through poultry manure)

**T<sub>16</sub>** = Azotobactor+ T<sub>6</sub> (50% N/tree through urea + 25% FYM +25 % Vermicompost)

**T<sub>17</sub>** = Azotobactor + T<sub>7</sub> (50% N/tree through urea + 25% FYM +25% poultry manure)

**T<sub>18</sub>** = Azotobactor + T<sub>8</sub> (50% N through urea+25% poultry manure + 25% Vermicompost),

**T<sub>19</sub>** = Azotobactor+ T<sub>9</sub> (25% N/tree through urea+25% FYM +25% poultry manure+25 % Vermicompost.

The height of the plant was measured with the help of a measuring device during the time of application of the treatment and after the harvesting of the fruits, whereas percent increase in height has been measured by the following formula.

$$\text{Per cent increase in plant height} = \frac{\text{Plant height (AFH)} - \text{Plant height (BFA)}}{\text{Plant height (BFA)}} \times 100$$

**Note:** **AFH** = After fruit harvest,  
**BFA** = Before fertilizer application.

The plant spread was measured with the help of a measuring device from (N-S and E-W) during the time of application of the treatment and after the harvesting of the fruits, whereas

percent increase in plant spread has been measured by the following formula.

$$\text{Percent increase in plant spread} = \frac{\text{Plant spread (AFH)} - \text{Plant spread (BFA)}}{\text{Plant spread (BFA)}} \times 100$$

**Note:** **AFH** = After fruit harvest,  
**BFA** = Before fertilizer application

Whereas Fruit length and diameter were measured using the vernier caliper, Volume of the fruit was obtained by water displacement method, Weight and yield/plant was recorded using electronic weight balance, Yield/ha has been obtained by multiplying yield/tree with 5000, since plants are planted at the spacing of (2x1).

## Results and Discussion

It has been observed that there was very little improvement in all the physical parameters in guava when the nutrients were applied with only organic fertilizers or inorganic fertilizers or bio fertilizers respectively, but growth parameters and yield

parameters significantly increased when the combined application of organic, inorganic and bio fertilizers were applied. Table-1 on growth characteristics of guava i.e plant height, canopy (N-S and E-W) has shown significant increase in percentage when data recorded after harvesting of the fruits to the data that has been recorded at the time of application of the treatments where maximum increase in plant height (21.99%), canopy (23.57%) N-S, canopy (23.50%) E-W has obtained with T<sub>11</sub>=Azotobactor + T<sub>1</sub> (100% of Nitrogen/tree through Urea) it clearly shows that nitrogen significantly influenced the vegetative growth in the plants.

**Table 1:** Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on Plant height, Plant spread (N-S) and (E-W) of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Allahabad Safeda under Meadow orcharding

Treatment	Plant height (m)		% Increase	Plant spread (N - S) (m)		% Increase	Plant spread (E- W) (m)		% Increase
	Before treatment	After harvesting		Before treatment	After harvesting		Before treatment	After harvesting	
T <sub>0</sub>	1.37	1.51	10.49	1.20	1.33	10.83	1.17	1.31	11.93
T <sub>1</sub>	1.60	1.92	19.75	1.25	1.55	24.00	1.20	1.48	23.40
T <sub>2</sub>	1.39	1.55	11.78	1.22	1.38	13.42	1.21	1.37	13.22
T <sub>3</sub>	1.50	1.78	18.93	1.30	1.57	21.08	1.29	1.55	20.21
T <sub>4</sub>	1.52	1.80	18.68	1.31	1.58	20.61	1.30	1.57	20.72
T <sub>5</sub>	1.50	1.79	19.33	1.30	1.58	21.85	1.30	1.57	20.82
T <sub>6</sub>	1.44	1.67	15.70	1.24	1.49	20.16	1.25	1.48	18.35
T <sub>7</sub>	1.44	1.69	17.63	1.26	1.51	19.84	1.25	1.49	19.20
T <sub>8</sub>	1.48	1.72	16.22	1.28	1.53	19.84	1.28	1.52	18.70
T <sub>9</sub>	1.41	1.61	14.18	1.23	1.43	16.26	1.22	1.42	16.39
T <sub>10</sub>	1.38	1.54	11.62	1.20	1.36	13.33	1.20	1.36	13.33
T <sub>11</sub>	1.61	1.96	21.99	1.34	1.66	23.57	1.28	1.58	23.50
T <sub>12</sub>	1.40	1.58	12.59	1.22	1.40	14.44	1.21	1.40	15.70
T <sub>13</sub>	1.55	1.74	12.50	1.33	1.63	22.86	1.32	1.59	20.51
T <sub>14</sub>	1.60	1.89	18.13	1.35	1.65	22.52	1.33	1.61	21.00
T <sub>15</sub>	1.55	1.85	19.35	1.34	1.64	22.08	1.33	1.61	21.05
T <sub>16</sub>	1.54	1.78	15.58	1.32	1.56	18.48	1.32	1.58	19.75
T <sub>17</sub>	1.53	1.78	16.34	1.32	1.57	19.24	1.31	1.57	19.90
T <sub>18</sub>	1.54	1.79	15.98	1.32	1.57	18.94	1.32	1.58	19.75
T <sub>19</sub>	1.42	1.62	13.82	1.25	1.47	17.60	1.23	1.45	17.89
<b>F- test</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>		<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>		<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	
<b>S. Ed. (±)</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.01</b>		<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.013</b>		<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.013</b>	
<b>C. D. (P = 0.05)</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.03</b>		<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.026</b>		<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.026</b>	

whereas Table 2 shows that maximum average fruit weight (190.10 g), fruit length (7.10 cm), fruit diameter (7.15 cm), number of fruits/tree (21.0), fruit yield/tree (3.99 kg), fruit yield/ha (199.58 qts) has been obtained with T<sub>14</sub> =

*Azotobactor* +T<sub>4</sub> (75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through Vermicompost), same results were also given by Sharma *et al.* (2013).

**Table 2:** Effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on growth and fruit yield characteristics of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv, Allahabad Safeda under Meadow orcharding

Treatments	No. of fruits/tree	Av. Fruit weight (gm)	Fruit length (cm)	Fruit diameter (cm)	Yield/tree (Kg)	Yield/ha (q)	Fruit Volume (cc)
T <sub>0</sub>	10.33	112.75	5.10	5.12	1.17	58.26	114.55
T <sub>1</sub>	14.33	132.00	6.03	5.86	1.89	94.60	133.15
T <sub>2</sub>	13.00	122.15	5.50	5.52	1.59	79.39	122.10
T <sub>3</sub>	18.67	170.25	6.27	6.10	3.18	158.91	171.45
T <sub>4</sub>	19.33	182.65	6.33	6.14	3.53	176.57	178.20
T <sub>5</sub>	19.00	175.33	6.28	6.11	3.33	166.57	173.58
T <sub>6</sub>	16.67	159.00	6.17	6.01	2.65	132.49	160.90
T <sub>7</sub>	16.00	152.05	6.14	5.91	2.43	121.64	159.10
T <sub>8</sub>	16.67	155.20	6.18	6.04	2.59	129.32	160.17
T <sub>9</sub>	15.00	140.00	5.97	5.57	2.10	104.97	138.47
T <sub>10</sub>	12.00	119.50	5.24	5.46	1.43	71.71	141.40
T <sub>11</sub>	14.67	136.50	6.10	5.90	2.00	100.09	136.05
T <sub>12</sub>	13.67	128.35	5.95	5.55	1.75	87.71	130.35
T <sub>13</sub>	20.00	182.90	6.79	6.90	3.66	182.88	181.63
T <sub>14</sub>	21.00	190.10	7.10	7.15	3.99	199.58	192.13
T <sub>15</sub>	20.67	185.50	7.01	7.04	3.83	191.69	185.82
T <sub>16</sub>	18.00	170.00	6.29	6.30	3.06	153.00	167.92
T <sub>17</sub>	17.00	165.12	6.27	6.30	2.81	140.35	165.12
T <sub>18</sub>	17.00	168.55	6.28	6.26	2.87	143.27	168.00
T <sub>19</sub>	15.33	145.35	6.01	6.05	2.23	111.43	146.76
<b>F- test</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>S. Ed. (±)</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>1.18</b>
<b>C. D. (P = 0.05)</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>9.49</b>	<b>2.38</b>

It has been observed that Nitrogen and vermicompost improves microbial distribution and plays the important role in photosynthesis and accumulation of the food material, vermicompost also improves the moisture retention capacity in the soil. It may also act in activating the enzymes due to which the size of the fruits has considerably increased. It has

been concluded that the application of organic manure with chemical fertilizer along with biofertilizer significantly influenced the physical characteristics that's why maximum number of fruits per plant, maximum average weight of per fruit, maximum fruit length, maximum fruit diameter, maximum yield per tree and maximum yield per hector has

been obtained with  $T_{14} = \text{Azotobacter} + T_4$  (75% N/tree through urea + 25% N/tree through Vermicompost. The present findings are in accordance with the results reported by Domane *et al.* (2013), Sharma *et al.* (2013), Yadav *et al.* (2013) and Kumar *et al.* (2017).

In conclusion our results revealed that physical characteristics in guava has significantly influenced by the application of nitrogen in the form of 25gm Azotobacter + 25% vermicompost + 75% urea and it is concluded with the suggestion to adopt this treatment for sustainable production.

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