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EFFECT OF PRUNING SEVERITY AND ITS TIME ON VEGETATIVE GROWTH, FLOWERING AND YIELD OF OLINDA VALENCIA ORANGE

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ABSTRACT

The current study was carried out during two successive seasons (2011/2012 and 2012/2013) on Valencia orange cv. Olinda budded on Volkameriana rootstock and growing in a sandy soil under drip irrigation system at Wadi el-Natron region, Behira governorate Egypt. The present investigation aimed to study the effect of pruning severity and time of application on vegetative growth, flowering and productivity of Valencia orange trees. Three pruning levels were applied (removing 15, 30 and 45% of tree canopy). Each level of pruning was applied in March and July. Results showed that, orange trees had positively affected by different pruning treatment. Pruning at 30% level was improved shoot length, leaves number and increased tree yield (kg) and fruits number per tree. Pruning time had slight effect on tree growth and did not affect tree flowering. Regarding tree yield, pruning in July improved tree yield and fruits number compared with pruning in March. Based on obtained results it's recommended to prune Olinda Valencia orange trees at 30% in July.

Key words: Flowering, Growth, Valencia Orange, Yield, Pruning.