

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

Efficacy of Protone (abscisic acid) as an aid in lowering detachment force for bell peppers

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To determine the rate necessary to elicit a response to the chemical, we drenched 25 ft plots of mature bells with the equivalent of 100, 600, and 1200 gms per acre, using a watering can containing adequate water to drench the surface of the soil around the plants. Watering of the plots continued through the drip system as required.

After 10 days, there was no noticeable effect on the plants, and no change in detachment force. We did a second drench with the same dosages; after 10 days, again no effect. As a final attempt, we tried rates three times and 10 times the maximum rate of 1200 gm/acre, ie 3600 gm/acre and 12,000 gm/acre. We saw no response even at these high rates. We would like to make a second attempt in 2019 to test the use of Protone for this situation. We are not asking for funding from the Pepper Commission.