



## Pistachio – California 2005

**Trial area:** Choschilla area in Merced County, California

**Conducted by:** J. Phillip Keathley, Ph.D., Caltec Research & Development Co.

**Crop and cultivar:** Pistachio var. Kerman

**Treatment description:** Kelpak applied twice at 2 pints/acre as a foliar spray at 50% bloom and 40 days later and Kelpak applied at the same timings at 3 pints/acre

**Total spray volume:** 100 gallons water per acre

**Area per treatment:** Three rows of 105 trees per row trees about 1/4 miles in length

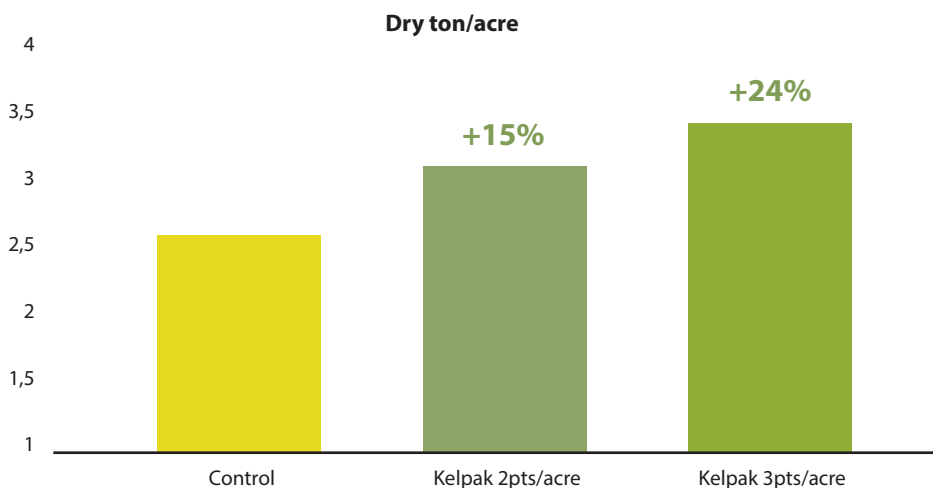
### Rationale

To determine the effect of early bloom and full-leaf sprays with two Kelpak rates on the yield of a commercial pistachio orchard.

### Summary

In a semi-commercial trial in a pistachio orchard in California, Kelpak foliar sprays at 2 pints/acre applied at 50% pistachio bloom and 40 days later resulted in 15% more nuts harvested per tree compared to the untreated control treatment. Similar Kelpak applications at 3 pints/acre resulted in 24% more nuts, significantly better than the control. No phytotoxicity was observed at any stage of the trial.

Graph.1 Effect of Kelpak on pistachio yield



### Results

The yield of the control was very similar to the yield recorded in 2003 and heavier than the yield recorded for 2004 and can be considered as an "on" year yield. The untreated trees on return on investment averaged \$12,500 per acre compared with \$14,400 for the lower Kelpak rate and \$15,500 for the higher Kelpak rate. This represented an increase of \$1,900 and \$3,000 per acre for the two Kelpak treatments respectively

