INDUCED LATERAL BUD GROWTH OF WALNUT WITH FOLIAR SPRAYS OF DIKEGULAC

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Treatments in 1977 resulted in the desired growth of lateral buds which increase the potential for limb selection. Foliar treatments in 1978 were made to determine effective timing and concentration. Dikegulac at 500 and 1000 ppm was applied on April 14, May 5 and May 17, 1978. The average vegetative growth at each date was 13, 15 and 21 cm respectively. Growth of lateral buds were induced at all timings and concentrations. Some phytoxicity occurred in the April treatment. The best treatment was 500 ppm on May 4 or 17. Thus, it appears that a treatment with dikegulac in early May when vegetative growth is between 15 and 20 cm and still active could be of practical importance by increasing the number of buds growing on laterals, thus adding to the total number available for selection and training of young walnut trees.