THE EFFECT OF NPK FERTILISER ON THE LEAF BIOCHEMICAL INDICATORS AND PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY OF F1 TN61 WINTER MELON FRUIT (*BENINCASA HISPIDA* (THUNB.) COGN.)

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Summary

The winter melon, is widely cultivated, has high nutritional value. Its fruit is used for the food, and industrial raw materials. The growth, tolerance and adaptability of this plant are good. The F1 TN61 winter melon plant is being commonly grown in Cam-My district, Dong-Nai province in black lands, red soils with gravel and alluvial soil but the productivity is not high due to the inadequate fertilization regime. Determining the appropriate amount of NPK fertilizer will increase the productivity and quality. An experiment was carried out to determine the effect of different NPK fertilizer levels (300, 400, 500 kg/hectare\(^{-1}\)) on yield and quality of *Benincasa hispida*. The results showed that applying NPK fertilizer at 400 kg per hectare yielded in high fruit yield, larger fruit size and weight and higher dry matter content, increasing total sugar and vitamin C in comparison with other levels.

**Key words:** *Benincasa hispida* (Thunb.) Cogn., F1 TN61 winter lemon plant, NPK fertilizer.