

# Effect of Boron on flower and fruit setting, and yield of ratoon Brinjal crop

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## ABSTRACT

This experiment was undertaken to study the effect of boron on flower and fruit setting, and yield of ratoon crop of brinjal (*Solanum melongina L*) in the Eastern region of Sri Lanka during the period January to March 2014, with the variety of brinjal “Thinnavelli purple.” The treatments were arranged in a Randomized Complete Design (RCBD) replicated three times. The treatments were defined as follows: T1-50 ppm, T2-100 ppm; T3-150 ppm and T4- Control along with recommended fertilizer. All other agronomic practices were in accordance with the Department of Agriculture. The results showed that foliar application of boron ( $H_3BO_3$ ) at 150 ppm increased the number of flower buds/plant (70%), number of flowers/ cluster (141%), number of flower clusters/plant (48%), total number of flowers/plant (122%), Percentage of flower-set (30%), percentage of fruit-set (46%), number of fruits/plant (216%) and fresh weight of fruits/plant (88 %) than that of control. It was, therefore, concluded that foliar application of  $H_3BO_3$  at 150 ppm (at flowering stage) could increase flowering, fruit set percentage and fruit yield per plant of ratoon crop of brinjal in the regosol of Batticaloa district.

**Key words:** Brinjal, flower-set, fruit-set.