

# **INTERNAL FACTORS CONTROLLING REPRODUCTIVE RATE IN FRUIT TREES**

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## **ABSTRACT TEXT**

Many fruit crops initiate inflorescences once a year, in response to environmental cues or an internal clock. Still, in trees with a heavy crop load flowering could be inhibited even though the correct environmental cues occurred. Within an inflorescence, although all fruitlets might begin development, many may abort and abscise. These two factors enhance the problem of inconsistent yields in fruit trees. Our joint effort is to better understand these processes in apples and mango. Each one of us is focusing on a different aspect of this problem. Here I will discuss initial progress in two topics: **a.** Identifying a molecule that appears to mediate the response of apple spurs to heavy fruit load. **b.** Creating tools to identify the molecules that establish the dominant relationships between fruitlets on an apple spur.