J.Japan. Soc. Hort. Sci. 80:19-25. 2011.

Effect of Initiation Timing of Drought Stress on Carbohydrate Content and Vegetative Growth in Japanese Apricot (*Prunus mume*) 'Nanko'

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The effects of initiation timing of drought stress on the carbohydrate content and growth of the Japanese apricot (Prunus mume) 'Nanko' tree were investigated. Three-year-old trees were subjected to drought stress for three months in May ('Spring') and August ('Summer'), respectively. Irrigation was started immediately after drought stress treatment had finished. The starch concentration in the roots of stressed trees increased in both 'Spring' and 'Summer' two months after starting drought stress treatment and rapidly decreased just after starting irrigation in 'Spring'; however, it still temporarily increased in 'Summer'. These different results were attributed to seasonal changes in the carbohydrate demand. The dry matter weight of each tree organ in February of the following year was suppressed by drought stress, particularly in 'Spring'. This result indicates that, if a tree suffers drought stress in spring, vegetative growth is suppressed more seriously than in summer and tree growth, declined by suffering from severe and long-term drought stress, will hardly recover even the tree is re-irrigated. The total starch in all organs of the drought-stressed trees in February of the following year was significantly less than that in well-irrigated trees. These results indicate that severe drought stress for three months inhibits not only current tree growth but also the accumulation of carbohydrates that is necessary for the following year's growth. Hence, irrigation to avoid a fatal growth decline due to severe drought stress is needed during the current growth stage, especially in the early growth stage in spring.

水分ストレス開始時期の影響がウメ '南高'の炭水化物含量および生育に及ぼす影響を調査した.5月(春季処理)と8月(夏季処理)にそれぞれ3ヶ月間の水分ストレスを施し、ストレス処理が終了したら直ちに灌水を行った。春季および夏季処理の樹体の根のデンプン濃度は、ストレス開始から2ヶ月後に上昇した。春季処理樹では処理終了後の灌水を始めると、速やかにデンプン濃度が低下した。一方、夏季処理樹では灌水してもデンプン濃度は上昇を続けた。これは、樹体の炭水化物の需要量が季節によって変化することによる

ものと考えられた.翌年2月の樹体の組織別乾物重は、水分ストレスにより小さくなり、特に春季処理樹で著しく抑えられた.これは、ウメの樹体が春季に強度の水分ストレスを受けると、夏季にストレスを受けるよりも生育が著しく抑えられ、灌水を再開しても、生育を回復しないことが示唆された.水分ストレスを受けた樹体の各組織の2月における全デンプン含量はストレスを受けていない樹体に比べて著しく少なかった.これらの結果から、ウメ樹体が3ヶ月間の強度の水分ストレスを受けると、当年の生育が抑制されるだけでなく、次年の生育に必要な貯蔵炭水化物量の蓄積も抑制されることが明らかとなった.以上のことから、回復不能な生育低下を回避するためには、ウメ樹体が過度の水分ストレスに遭遇しないように、十分な灌水管理が必要である.特に生育ステージ初期に当たる春季の灌水が重要である.