Gibberellins on Grape

Tests with gibberellins indicate several uses in grape production. They were found to produce an excellent set in Black Corinth. They also greatly increased berry size of Thompson Seedless when the sprays were applied at the proper time for girdling. Gibberellin can be applied in conjunction with girdling or separately. In some cases gibberellin applied separately produced larger berries than those obtained from girdling only. The largest berries resulted from a combination of girdling and treatment with gibberelin.

Prebloom sprays of gibberellin also hastened flowering. Sprayed vines flower three or four days earlier than the non-sprayed. In some varieties such as Zinfandel the ripening may also be hastened. The berries color and sugar up earlier. In most varieties, however, gibberellin failed to hasten ripening.

Spraying gibberellin on seeded vines during the summer or fall often delayed foliation the following spring. Such sprays may be valuable to retard bud break in the spring and thereby serve as a protective measure against early frost injury.