

Supplementary Materials

1. Methods

1.1. Effect of flower thinning on the fruit production rate of *C. osmantha*

Camellia osmantha branches with similar bud numbers were selected randomly in the fields (1 branch / tree). One-fourth, 1/3 and 1/2 of the total number of buds on the branches were removed before flowering (treatment groups). Branches with no bud removed served as a control group. There were five replicates for each treatment.

1.2. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 16.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA). Fruit production rate of *C. osmantha* after flower thinning and control group were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by Tukey's honest significant difference (HSD) test for multiple comparisons. Proportional data were subjected to arcsine square root transformation prior to analysis. A level of $p < 0.05$ was accepted as statistically significant for all statistical analyses.

2. Results

2.1. Effect of flower thinning on the fruit production rate of *C. osmantha*

Flower thinning had no significant effect on the fruit production rate of *C. osmantha* in comparison with control ($F = 0.538$, $df = 3,19$, $p = 0.663$) (Table S1).

Table S1. Effect of flower thinning on the fruit production rate of *C. osmantha*.

	Control	1/4	1/3	1/2
Fruit production rate (%)	48.1 ± 9.0 a	50.3 ± 8.2a	60.9 ± 5.7 a	59.6 ± 11.4 a

Values (mean ± S.E.) followed by different letters in the same row are significantly different based on Tukey's HSD test at $p < 0.05$.